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Tanguilig seizes Tour overall lead

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PHILIPPINE DAILY
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BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

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website: www.inq7.net

2 of 4 terror suspects admit JI links, says AFP

By Christine F. Reguerra

TWO of the four suspected Muslim rebels arrested in Mindanao last week have admitted links to the regional terror network Jemaah Islamiya, the military said yesterday.

It said explosive materials seized from the suspects indicated they planned to bomb the

Mangyan orphan top high school graduate

By Nikaela T. Wrede
IHI Southern Luzon Bureau

Yellow ribbons await Roco

Ate Glo surprises Noranians

By Gil Cabacungan Jr.

A GRAND "reunion concert" staged for thousands of Noranians—Richard Lam of pop music and movie superstar Nora Aunor—topped active "voting Aunor" for President Macapagal-Arroyo on Sunday night at the Folk Arts Theater.

The two misses severely suffered their idol's last attempt but one lately more influential book editor. Where the President ATTACKED Public, assisted by First Gentleman Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo, the crowd, estimated at 5,000, broke into enthusiasm to applause.

Not that the fans were caught by surprise. Aunor had sufficiently prepped them for current manifesto. "I have even picked many members from my life," she said at one point, acknowledging that those behind of endorsing "the wrong candidates" in the past.

The singer-era, by her own admission, an intimate friend.

FULL STORY A1-3

SUPERSTAR Nora Aunor and her many influential but less musical look-alike, President Macapagal-Arroyo, sing "Together Again."

Presidential bet returns tomorrow

By TJ Burgonio and Michael Lim Ubac

ALBAY—The Philippine standard-bearer Raul Roco is heading home to a welcome of yellow ribbons and the news that he had rumbled to the Lenco survey ratings.

Two weeks after he suspended his presidential campaign to seek medical treatment in the United States, Roco flew out of Houston, Texas, at noon yesterday (Philippine time) on his way back to Manila.

Despite assurances by party source that the 62-year-old Tot now senator was so refined as ever and fit to resume his campaign, there was still no word from Roco or his doctors about the results of his medical tests and the state of his health.

"He wants to be the one to tell the whole world about the [reduce his gum back]," the former education secretary's campaign [name illegible], Bernardo "Ting" Nuno, told the Inquirer. "But he, as long as he comes home alive and [illegible] I'm happy."

Roco finally left for the United States on April 12 as a second stage in the campaign for the May 10 elections for treatment of chronic back pains. His department set off speculations that he was afflicted with a far more serious ailment, like prostate cancer.

"He has already left Houston. I think he's on his way," Bautista's brother said on the phone. He declined to give details of the flight.

Roco's campaign manager, Jaime Galvez Tan, said the former secretary would step over in Honolulu for an "overnight rest" before resuming the long flight to Manila.

All day yesterday, Albayan strongmen held meetings at their headquarters on Rizalpuram Avenue in Quezon City to prepare for Roco's homecoming, expected at [illegible] noon tomorrow.

They were still finalizing details of the welcome but Roco running mate, Senator Aquino,

FULL STORY A1-3

Candidates' surveys irrelevant to the poor, says Ateneo study

By Veh Contreras, Gil Cabacungan Jr. and Christine D. Avendaño

[illegible] encouraging news to candidates who trails the surveys, and a sobering one for those who lead. The country's poor hardly give a damn about such numbers they fill up the ballot.

A study conducted by the Ateneo de Manila University showed that surveys were generally "irrelevant" to poor Filipinos when they back certain candidates.

Most of the poor cross "electoral" surveys dismissing them as a tool that can be manipulated and used by one political camp to "smack" rivals, it said.

These were among the major findings from the focus group discussions (FGDs) and interviews conducted by the ADMU's Institute for Philippine Culture.

From late March to early April, the IPC conducted four FGDs in Metro Manila; two each in urban, [illegible], Cebu and [illegible], and two each in rural Camarines Sur, Iloilo and Davao del Sur.

The findings of the IPC study become relevant in the wake of the publication of survey results showing that President Macapagal-Arroyo had widened her lead over her rivals.

Mr. Macapagal got 36.9 percent while Roco received 26.4 percent of the votes of some 1,200 respondents interviewed by SWS Trends on April 20 to 23. Senator Lacson got 13.2 percent, Senator [illegible] 9.9 percent, and Erap 9.6 percent.

CANDIDATES' S-10

Pro-Lacson 'respondent' doubts poll

By Norman Bordadora

THE CAMP of presidential candidate Panfilo Lacson questioned the credibility of surveys showing President Macapagal-Arroyo had widened her lead over Lacson to a 26 year old businessman said he interested on April 1 a question, [illegible] carrying only the names of two presidential aspirants.

Jumbo Marquez, owner of a water refilling station in Sitio Ilo Ilo Village in Banilad, Cebu City said two women, who identified

LITO Banayo (right), Lacson campaign strategist, presents Jumbo Marquez to dispute Pulse Asia's survey findings.

No wage hike on Labor Day

By Marnie B. Manlupig in Manila and Tarra Quismorio
PDI Central Luzon Desk

INSTEAD OF a wage increase on Labor Day, workers in Metro Manila will get free train rides, discounts at business establishments, tickets to a professional basketball game and a free concert.

In addition, job vacancies will be made available to 1,000 people at a job fair in Manila.

Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas said the Bid 1 package of activities, which would cost P1 (for cheese "Area ng Paggawa, Oportunidad at Magagawa," was designed as "toned down" Labor Day celebrations so that there would not be seen as part of the electoral process.

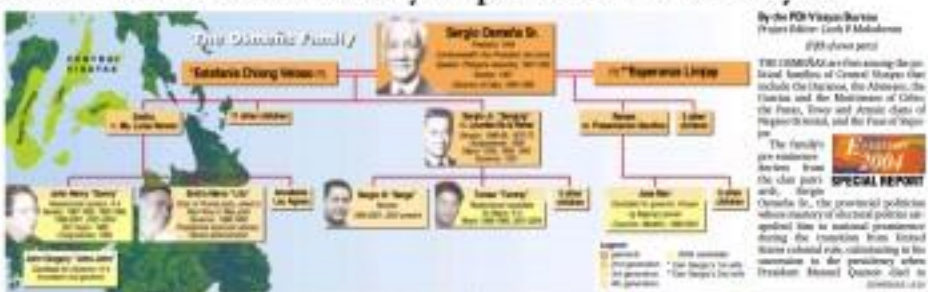
At a press conference, Sto. Tomas said she did not expect President Macapagal-Arroyo to announce a wage increase or any benefit package on May 1 as it might be misconstrued as wrongdoing.

The ban on granting benefits to government workers started on

FULL STORY A1-3

A NATION OF CLANS

Osmeñas mark centenary in public service this year



By the PDI Visayas Bureau
Project Editor: Linda P. Mahadevan

(fifth in a series)

THE OSMEÑAS are fast among the political families of Central Visayas that include the Durianos, the Abenzas, the Garcias and the Montenegros of Cebu, the Perez, Tinay and Arnaiz clans of Negros Occidental, and the Fuentebella clan of Bicol.

The families are prominent [illegible] from the clan patriarch, Sergio Osmeña Sr., the provincial politician whose mastery of electoral politics catapulted him to national prominence during the transition from United States colonial rule, culminating in his succession to the presidency when President Manuel Quezon died in

FULL STORY A1-3

Centennial 2004
SPECIAL REPORT

WEATHER FORECAST

Second FRONTPAGE

Not all Pinoy OFWs in Iraq safe–Cimatu

By Jerome Aning

Not all of the Filipino overseas workers in Iraq stationed in US-led Coalition military camps, bases and facilities are safe, this was the assessment of Ambassador Roy Cimatu, head of the government's Iraq Team.

In an interview with reporters yesterday, Cimatu modified his earlier statement that the estimated 4,000 OFWs in Iraq were safe in spite of the evidence targeting Coalition troops.

Cimatu based his latest assessment of the OFWs' safety and security on his visit last week to three camps in Baghdad, including Camp Victory, which is heavily guarded and fortified by Olivegas.

Although the ambassador was not able to visit the Coalition camps that had Filipino workers, other members of the Iraq team said he, or are currently visiting Dahlman in Mosul, Balad, Anaconda, Taji, Hamandyah and Umm Qasr to document the Filipinos there and evaluate their safety.

Threats to Coalition facilities, Cimatu explained, often come in the form of suicide bombings, mortar and rocket-propelled grenade attacks. To avoid early detection, these are usually launched from a distance and are within the Coalition camp's security.

2 Pinoys hurt

He confirmed reports that two Filipino workers were injured early this month during mortar attacks by Iraqi militants at Camps Freedom and Given in the northeastern city of Mosul. The workers had come from Turkey. Identified as Rodel Ramos, 29, and Jaime Dalitsan, 30, they reported for duty in the Department of Foreign Affairs.

Cimatu also said OFWs in Iraq who could hire their own means of transportation when they wanted to be deployed in safer cities like Middle East areas.

"It was their decision to work in Iraq. On our (government's) part we are always prepared to help them out well in time when something bad happens," he said.

1,180 Filipinos

Cimatu also met with Filipinos working in Camp Victory, which encompasses the Baghdad International Airport. About 1,000 Filipinos work in the camp, while another 180 work in the airport proper.

"They are satisfied with their working conditions and have expressed the desire to remain in Iraq," he said.

The DFA said Filipino workers are not allowed to station out of the camps and bases. These areas are allowed to do so are warned not to take precautionary measures by avoiding restaurants, coffee shops and other public places targeted by terrorist bombers.

Cimatu revealed the second exit plan for OFWs in Iraq which is via chartered plane to a third country, specifically Kuwait. The companies that hired the Filipinos would shoulder the expenses.

No visas

The DFA said the OFWs were able to enter Iraq easily because the interim government there does not require visas for foreign workers. Many of them were employed by contractors or subcontractors based in neighboring countries such as Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Jordan and the United Arab Emirates.

The Filipinos work as plumbers, construction crew, mechanic operators, drivers, cooks, bakers, cashiers, secretaries, nurses and even lobbyists, lawyers and accountants for the Coalition or for firms hired by the Coalition for reconstruction work in Iraq.

Cimatu was quite concerned with OFWs working as drivers because these travel from city to city, sometimes to and from Iraq's neighboring countries to deliver and get food, equipment and other supplies needed by the Coalition.

Three weeks ago, 1 Filipino driver found himself with dozens of hostages briefly besieged by militant Iraqis who attacked Coalition forces.

Because of this, Cimatu has recommended that the labor department discourage Filipinos from taking driver's jobs in Iraq and in those countries bordering it.

Aside from Cimatu and Esdras, the other members of the Iraq team are the campaign commander, Brig. Gen. Jovito Palparan, the Philippine labor attaché in Iraq, the Philippine ambassador to Kuwait, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Turkey and Lebanon, and eight high-ranking police officials.

AMBASSADOR Roy Cimatu, head of the interim government Iraq Team, meets Filipino workers at the Coalition-run Camp Victory, which encompasses the Baghdad International Airport. Cimatu toured the Baghdad area last week to assess the safety of Filipino workers there amidst escalating violence in Iraq. (AFP/FILE)

Erap's plaint: The ladies don't come around anymore

By Armando N. Noguera

WITH enough with love, but it's not his lack of trying.

"Many are shaken to my core [when] they say want to give. My knees are weak," deposed Ferdinand Joseph Estrada told the hearers in a telephone interview over the weekend.

Estrada, who is suffering from colon cancer, is not resigning to critics who had doubted his claim last week that his "sex life" was "zero," following his transfer to a military camp in Tanay, Rizal.

Now 67, out of power, in ill and detained in a fin-off military camp for plunder and graft charges, Estrada complains that many of the ladies he had been linked to no longer come around.

"Only some supporters drench us comforter-type atmosphere [Nobody comes here anymore. The atmosphere is not conducive]," Estrada told the hearers over a telephone.

During an earlier inspection of his cell house a foundation nurse away from the camp he touched perhaps distress last week, Estrada told reporters that the "sex life" of the 1,000 members of Camp Capinpin ended the lack of amenities was killing romance.

He said his idea of a conducive environment was one where the room is big, comfortable, and has a bathtub.

Prosecution lawyers have opposed Estrada's motion asking the court to consider him as his 15-hectare rest house, describing it as a virtual beach resort.

By the same token lawyer Jose Sonny Estrada—who is married to him, Lei Estrada—had been linked to actresses Gelli Gomez, Laarni Enriquez and Beverly Rancisis, Joy Belmonte, and Rosanna Roces.

During the failed impeachment proceedings against Estrada three years ago, reports said part of Estrada's P4.1 billion allegedly plundered from the government was used to finance the construction of multi-million luxurious homes and love trysts.

Estrada gets first his version.

But in previous interviews with the hearings, Estrada consistently denied the graft charges, saying he only knew of two mistresses—his estranged wife Luisa Ejercito and ex-showbiz actress Guia Gomez.

Meanwhile, Deputy Special Prosecutor Robert E. Kallos said his office is opposing Estrada's motion to vote in his hometown of Dos Rios, Mabalacat, Pampanga.

"That is very risky," he said, referring to the move to transfer his ballots from Tanay to Dos Rios, and back to the municipal hall for the national elections.

Kallos said the Ombudsman would rather have the Senator go to Tanay to get Estrada's vote like what happened in the 2004 senatorial elections when the Senate President voted from Camp Capinpin instead of the Senate Session Hall.

Honasan seeks SC help to stop DOJ coup probe

By Philip C. Tubeza

FEARING possible arrest, Senator Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan (re-elected) asked the Supreme Court to rule for contempt the Department of Justice prosecutors' panel investigating coup d'état charges against him for his alleged role in the July 27 Oakwood mutiny last year.

Honasan and the panel, headed by Senior State Prosecutor Leo Dacey, had been looking into the charges although the high court had not yet ruled on Monday on his petition to stop the preliminary probe by the Office of the Ombudsman.

Last week, the justice department gave Honasan until May 3 to submit his counter-affidavit after the Supreme Court ruled on April 13 that it should heed jurisdiction over the case.

But Honasan counsel Daniel Batocabe, and the ruling becomes final and executory only on May 7, adding that they would like to ask for reconsideration before the high court.

"The directive to submit a counter-affidavit without awaiting the finality of the April 13 decision would result in a situation where [the panel] could make findings, conclusions or recommendations against Honasan even before he has had the opportunity to submit his counter-affidavit, and [that the] the corresponding information to court, thus causing wastage of time and pothole," Batocabe said.

The panel gave Honasan a "final extension" until May 3 to submit his counter-affidavit and evidence after the Supreme Court upheld the jurisdiction over the investigation. Honasan, a former colonel had led several failed military revolts against the Aquino administration in the late 1980s.

Chief Public Prosecutor Jovencito Zuño said the panel would continue its investigation even if Honasan files a motion of reconsideration. He said the case had been set for resolution after Honasan failed to file his counter-affidavit on time. Honasan's lawyers also questioned the panel's jurisdiction.

The Supreme Court had junked Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile's petition to transfer the investigation, saying the Ombudsman, the Sandiganbayan and the Sandiganbayan do not give the Ombudsman exclusive jurisdiction to investigate offenses committed by public officers and employees.

Honasan said that the Ombudsman had primary jurisdiction since his alleged crime was committed "in relation to his office" as senator and because the justice department was allegedly biased against him.

But Ombudsman Simeon Marcelo had said Honasan's alleged act as leader of the July 27 Oakwood mutiny could not be considered part of his duties as a legislator.

Indon police arrest 8 Filipinos

Radley Wilcox Succari L.

Succari said an Indonesian navy spokesman in response to inquiries by the sun, without giving names any other arrests were made.

Police were still questioning the captain and crew about their activities, Succari said.

Trade in the deadly diamond is prohibited. Small miners in North Sulawesi often use it to separate gold from ore. AFP

DIVERS, led by SBMA Chair Felicito Payumo (left), hold up a piece of metal frame recovered from the sunken spy ship USS Lanikai in Subic Bay. AP

42.8M voters in final list

By Marlon P. Manlit

THE COMMISSION on Elections yesterday said that there will be 42.8 million voters in its list of voters for May 10.

According to Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos, the Comelec ended its book of voters on April 15 and, based on his estimate, the number of voters was about 42.8 million.

"There will be no more exclusions or inclusions," he said.

However, Abalos added that there is an exception when there is "clerical inadvertence."

The list of voters, the Comelec's information office said, is the finished voters registration records or FRR.

This is the same as the certified voters list or CVL, the controversial document which the National Movement for Free Elections or Namfrel earlier said is full of errors, citing the registrars' use of its secretary general Guillermo "Bill" Luz.

According to Namfrel, Luz failed to find his name in the CVL provided by the Comelec.

But National Capital Region Comelec chief Estimerio Antonio Ladia yesterday disputed this saying that Luz's name could be found in the updated CVL which she provided Namfrel.

Ladia said that she talked to Namfrel chief Jose Concepcion and Luz and both apologized for the Namfrel press statement which claimed that Luz's name was not in it.

The private watchdog had said it had "error-prone inaccuracies in voters' data such as wrong birth dates, ages and precinct assignments, and manual of variation on May 10 if these are not corrected.

Luz was vocal in calling the manual modernization program of the poll body as a "P1-billion screw-up" last August during the reign of retired Comelec Commissioner Lucenindo Tuvungco.

Sunken spy ship dug up from watery Subic grave

By Robert Joseph
PDI Central Luzon Desk

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT—A 90-year-old wooden schooner has been dug from its watery grave near this former US naval base, hoping to light the fascinum of its Filipino and American crew in World War II.

"It brings a lot of memories about my father," says Jaime Valencina, 65, as he inspects the barnacle-encrusted wheel of the 74-foot (22-meter) Lanikai, which was sunk by a storm in 1947 shortly after the war.

Valencina's father, Hilario Valencina, was among the 12 Filipinos in the 16-man crew of the vessel, which US and Filipino naval historians say played a crucial role in the allied effort against Japan.

Built in 1914, the Lanikai once fished Alaskan salmon in Seattle and was chartered out as a yacht from Hawaii, briefly sailing in Hollywood when it was used for the pre-war movie "Bird of Paradise" before it was commissioned into the US Navy at the start of the war in 1941.

According to Filipino historians, US President Franklin Roosevelt ordered it to be fitted with guns and sent it on secret missions. The Lanikai gathered intelligence for the US Navy and had patrolled the shores of Indonesia and Australia to monitor the southward push of the Japanese Imperial Army.

But the merchant schooner shipwrecked by Lieutenant Bruno Dalley during the war, may have had an even bigger mission.

"There were some accounts that Roosevelt may have used it to lure the Japanese to attack Wake Island," says Melchor Arellano Paramio, who heads Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority which runs Subic, once American's premier naval base in Asia until 1991.

Paramio says the Americans have not confirmed such accounts, and the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor threw the US into the war before the Lanikai was able to play a pivotal role.

Amirahan Bhan Hassan, who operates a dive shop and a restaurant-cum-museum in Subic, discovered the wreckage of the Lanikai in October last year, but reported it to the SBMA just last month.

On March 22, a team of Australian and Filipino divers commissioned by the SBMA found the wreckage lying at a depth of 30.48 meters (100 feet) off Wahsan Bay.

Capt. Victor Manuel, SBMA senior deputy administrator for operations supervised the recovery operation of artifacts.

Marcos said the artifacts, which include ornaments or detachable parts of the ship, would be put on display at the SBMA museum. The rest of the wreckage will be left under the sea and turned into a diving spot for tourists.

The US Navy had also been in touch and is studying on a documentary about Lanikai, of Kihei in Subic said.

In his book "Crisis of the Lanikai: Incitement to War," Dalley paid tribute to the Filipino crews suffagging dedication to the war.

"Considering the mission given to Lanikai and that majority of its crew were Filipinos, this is a historical find," Paramio said.

It also underscores the importance of Subic to US naval history, and by extension the Philippines, which remains a staunch American military ally in the region. With AFP

Muslims question fatwa vs GMA

MUSLIM groups yesterday questioned the fatwa (religious edict) issued by the Sangguniang Supreme Council of Ulama (SSCU) urging the Islamic faithful not to vote for President Macapagal-Arroyo in the May 10 elections.

The Filipino Muslim Alliance (FMA), through its national president Ameenah Ambiga, said: "The fatwa does not represent the true sentiments of the Filipino Muslims because it is devoid of the truth."

Ambiga said it appeared that it was only a small group of ulama headed by Sheikh Ismail Yahya that had issued the fatwa.

Ambiga said Yahya, described in yesterday's Inquirer story as the country's top Muslim cleric, had "championed our Islamic faith by surrendering to politics, man's frilly and weakness, and passing off their prejudice as the word of God." The FMA is affiliated with the People's Islamic Movement.

The FMA said that even SSCU officials like Ahoni Mangud Mandilan and dimir Abu Hamid Pasa were surprised by the incorrect story about the fatwa as this was not discussed or processed according to islamic tradition.

The FMA said President Macapagal had done much to uplift the plight of Filipino Muslims and promote their faith. She declared Eid Fitra as a national holiday was something that promoted Islam in the consciousness of all Filipinos, which none of the ulamas or Sangguniyan leaders had ever done, it said.

The President had also encouraged and funded madrasah education for the Islamic faithful all over the Philippines in order to teach the proper form of Islam, it said.

The FMA said it was only Ms Macapagal who had a genuine peace and development agenda that could finally settle the conflict in Mindanao.

The Ummah party, another Muslim religious group affiliated with the People's Power Movement, issued a statement denying the authenticity of the fatwa.

Alvarez Asaruallie Sayangani, head of the Ummah party and the PPM candidate for governor of Lanao del Sur, said no such fatwa against President Macapagal was issued.

Sayangani also said that among all the presidential candidates, he felt that it was only Ms Macapagal who would continue to promote the welfare of the Filipino Muslims.

"Although I am a candidate for the opposition, I have to speak the truth as a man of God and leader of my people," he said.

GSIS offers restructuring of loans

By Michelle V. Rivera

GSIS) a hard time paying off your loans with the Government Service Insurance System?

Qualified applicants can now restructure their GSIS loans under the facility's pension fund called "Comprehensive Action Plan for Restructuring and Enrichment of Loans, Enhanced Salary Loan Program and Emergency Monthly Salary Package," or CARES.

Restructured loans are allowed only after six months installments have been paid by the borrowers, reviewed and officially received by the GSIS.

"The program was in response to President Macapagal-Arroyo's challenge to make the GSIS an institution that its members can depend on in these times of economic uncertainty," said GSIS General Manager Winston Garcia.

Under the program, an applicant is given a fresh repayment period of between two to five years for the outstanding principal loan and unpaid interests, and condones surcharges on the loan amount.

The liability is computed by adding the gross loan amount (outstanding principal and unpaid interest), the salary loan redemption insurance premiums, and service fees.

FOUR DIGIT 1 4 4 8 (Tuesday's results) SUERTRES 0 6 4

MEGALOTTO 6/45 1 5 17 28 41 43

METRO

E-mail: [illegible]
Editor: Alexander S. Ulanday

Fire leaves 200 families homeless in QC

A BIG fire swept through a densely-populated area in Quezon City Sunday night, leaving at least 200 families homeless.

Insp. Samuel Tadeo said the fire broke out around 8:30 p.m. at the second floor of the two-story house of Celestino Nabong on 2-E Real Street, Barangay San Roque, Proj. 4.

Investigators have yet to determine the cause of the four-hour fire, which reached Task Force Echo.

However, several residents claimed that the fire could have been the result of the rampant illegal connection of electricity in the area.

The fire was put out at 12:14 a.m., Tadeo said.

No one was reported injured in the fire, which gutted about 95 stalls worth of property.

RESIDENTS of the fire-swept barangay salvage whatever they can from the ruins. [illegible]

Traffic clogged

Firefighters had a difficult time putting off the fire as it quickly devoured the shanties in the area which were made of light materials.

Perishing residents and responding fire trucks also clogged traffic in the area.

Affected families, some carrying appliances, bags of clothes and other things they managed to save from their burning houses, spent the night in Camp Aguinaldo Elementary School, barangay watchmen said Investigation is [illegible]

Damage to property caused by last month's fire was estimated to be at least P10.5 million, down from P71.7 million last year.

However, BFP records showed that 26 persons were killed and 48 others were injured in 1,201 fire incidents that were recorded for the month of March, observed annually as fire prevention month.

The records further showed that the Metropolitan Capital Region (NCR) had the second number of fire incidents with 565, followed by Region 4-A with 222, and Region 6 with 71.

The Bicos and Barrio Visayan Stations, on the other hand, had only one fire incident each for the whole month of March. Tina Santos, Edson Tandoc Jr., Nelson Flavier

Metro cops ready for May polls

By Tina Santos

NATIONAL Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) Director Ricardo de Leon yesterday assured that Metro Manila policemen are ready to respond to different election-related incidents during the national and local elections next month.

De Leon's assurance came following the conclusion of a series of command conferences that he presided over to finalize the deployment of 42 police precincts.

As part of the security measures, three-level command posts nationwide were set up where the different election-related incidents and their responses to at least three scenarios before and during the elections.

During the exercise, the directors displayed how they would respond to different election-related incidents, such as fighting mass, protest actions, ballot snatching cases and terrorist attacks.

De Leon also said that all aspects of security, including the concerns of the coalition units in the NCRPO, such as post-election problems, illegal study sites, were fully addressed during the exercise, conference held at each of the five police districts.

"My worst every week and crying of Metro Manilo security for the May polls," De Leon said.

He also emphasized that police senior will be deployed to ensure the 643 polling centers and the more than five million registered voters in the NCR who are expected to vote on May 10.

Mayoral bet wants soldiers to replace cops

PETE has three days to weeks before the elections, a mayoral bet wants police commanders in Muntinlupa City temporarily substituted by military officers until the elections is over.

Though he did not directly accuse the city police of playing favorites, Cesario Ortiz said yesterday that deploying additional military personnel to the city would be better.

Ortiz is running for mayor against Jesusito Sandoval, Melito Rojas Jr. and acting mayor Jaime Fresnedi.

According to radio reports, the Commission on Elections is considering to declare the city as an election hotspot. But Northern Police District Director Hernidas Pereira said Malabon City remained peaceful.

But Ortiz said the situation in the city might worsen if the incumbent is using fund base. Intrigue will continue. He said some of his supporters had received threats. Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

Larry 'Pipoy' Silva, TV sitcom actor, dies at 66

SILVA

By Tarra Quismundo

LARRY "Pipoy" Silva, a character actor famous mainly for his stint in the television sitcom "Okay Ka, Fairy Ko!", died on Sunday. He was 66.

Silva, a three-term councilor in Manila's third district, succumbed to kidney failure. He had been undergoing dialysis for two years.

Lawyer Cesario Sabuenia, a close friend, said the heavens that Silva would thinking of his job at the City Council even before he died at 4 a.m.

The former amateur boxer was born Hilarion Silva on Oct. 21, 1937. His wife Annie, who played the stage with him as Pipoy to Irma's dame in the '70s, was beside his bed at the Capitol as Maynila, when Pipoy died.

Sixth-born, Pipoy left behind his five kids: daughters Laurel, 25, Jaclyn, 24, and Larry Jr., 22, and his twin stepsisters Hilarion II, nicknamed Lil (1970 SB101, 18, and Hilarion III, called Hil (Pipoy Silva).

It was his youngest son's birthday yesterday when the 14-year-old and his family spent at the Lopez Funeral Homes on Roberto Oreta in Sta. Cruz, where Pipoy was brought.

His remains would be cremated on Thursday, following necrological services at the City Hall.

Inside the same hall, Pipoy spent three years as among six councilors of the Sta. Cruz and Binondo districts, serving from 1998 until this year.

His wish is now nothing to take his place, running for councilor under the Liberal Party, of which he had been a member since 1998.

MMDA to build holding rooms for drunk drivers

By Margaux Dela

MOTORISTS now have a reason to avoid drinking and driving.

The Metropolitan Manila Development Authority has ordered the construction of a separate tent inside the agency's road emergency stations and detachments to temporarily detain motorists caught driving under the influence (Rupo).

MMDA Deputy Chair Cesar Lagata said the apprehended drivers will be kept inside the room for six to eight hours, "to sure they sober up."

"We have to continuously ensure the safety of our roads, and this means keeping drunk drivers off the streets," Lagata said.

He stressed that the detention room will contain chairs and displayed of automatic fire beds and television sets.

Lagata said the drivers would still be charged with driving under the influence of liquor and fined P2,000 for the first, second and third offenses.

Bayad Center loses P100,000

A BAYAD Center branch in Cubao, Quezon City was more than P170,000 to robbers who barged in the office during the weekend.

The incident occurred at about 7 a.m. yesterday when the robbers went to open the office in A. Molina Street, Bgy. Socorro, Cubao. City police reported yesterday.

Branch owner Ronel Bayad told the city police that when he arrive went to open their office yesterday, they noticed that the door's padlocks had been destroyed. Inside, the vault was already open.

Bayad said they lost P126,696 cash and P43,776 worth of checks, all payments for phone, electric, telephone, cable, water and insurance bills of their clients.

The branch are closed on Saturday and Sunday. Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

Good news for Palauan residents

THE MAYOR City government has issued residents of Arellano Avenue and Molina Street in Barangay Bitoon Proper, Zamboanga City longer be exposed to deadly fumes and sickening noises brought by several trucks of a fuel, refuse that have been cancelled and revoked by the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) last year.

The developed as the Makati City Zoning Board of Adjustments and Appeals, led by Mayor Jejomar Binay, approved and issued a resolution recommending that BJC Trucking Service Corp. voluntarily remove its garage and repair shop at 4027 Arellano Avenue.

In the two-page resolution, the Board said the firm can no longer be allowed to operate in the area because of its non-conformity with the Makati City Zoning Ordinance and the succeeding petition of the residents for its trucks had been breaking the peace and polluting the air in the neighborhood.

The zoning violation case arised when the LTFRB denied with finality the motion for reconsideration filed by Bartolomeo Castillo, the franchising owner. The residents expressed elation over the move. Tina Santos

PLDT, SMART WIN 3 GOLD QUILL AWARDS

Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. and its mobile phone subsidiary Smart Communications Inc. on the awards in the Gold Quill Awards Philippines 2004 organized by the Philippine chapter of the International Association of Business Communicators recently. Receiving the awards are (L-R): Anthony G. Abrasaro, senior publications assistant; Enrique P. Antolin, media supervisor; Monica A. Lumiles, senior manager for media services; Manuel G. Jimenez Jr., first vice president for media and corporate communications; Zoilo M. Santiago, senior publications assistant; and Lorie L. Lopez, photographer.

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SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO BEFORE ME [illegible]

PAL, other airline offices in Bangkok get threats

BANGKOK—Three airlines, including Philippine airlines, have been threatened with attacks in their Bangkok offices in warnings believed issued by a group that has targeted Asian embassies, flights and tourist spots, Thai police said Monday.

Police said PAL Rounds Air and Kuwait Airways received letters warning of strikes on their offices, in a campaign believed to be linked to the United States-led operations in Iraq.

Special Branch commander Tawee Sunsuwan said the letters were similar to terrorist messages sent to the Pakistani and Israeli Embassies last week by a mysterious group calling itself the "Islam Red Servants Organization."

"The letters are similar to that sent to the Israeli Embassy, the format and fonts are similar. We believe they are the same group," Tawee said, adding that investigations were trying to determine whether the threats were genuine.

"We believe that Thai people will not respond to the troop deployment in Iraq and behind this, however, we think they do not have the capacity to carry out attacks like the others," he said.

Thailand is currently deliberating whether to withdraw its 440-strong troop deployment in Iraq due to the deteriorating security situation there.

A Kuwaiti airlines representative said security around its operations at Bangkok airport had been stepped up but that services were operating normally.

"The letter threatened terrorist attacks against the airline office in Bangkok, but not against flights," the representative told AFP.

He said Singapore Airlines had also received threats but police said they were only aware of letters to the Chase airlines and a Japanese airlines official declined to comment.

Kuwait Airways was immediately able to respond but a Philippine airlines representative confirmed a letter had been received. "We don't know yet who is responsible," he said.

The Korean air official downplayed the warnings, saying he did not believe it was a serious threat.

"I don't think the people behind this letter are really trying to create a terrorist attack," he said.

"Thailand is a democratic country which has lots of advantages to Korea and are using the current situation where people are concerned about terrorism for their benefit," he said. AFP

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Tuesday, April 27, 2004
2nd Week of Easter

Lit Homily: Acts 7:51-8:1
Gospel: Jn 6:30-35

They then said, "How is it [Jesus] now says, 'I have come down from heaven'? Is this not Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How then can he say, 'I have come down from heaven'?" Jesus answered and said to them, "Stop murmuring among yourselves. No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him, and I will raise him on the last day. It is written in the prophets, And they shall all be taught by God. Everyone who has heard the Father and learned from him comes to me. Not that anyone has seen the Father except the one who is from God; he has seen the Father. Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever believes has eternal life. I am the bread of life. Your ancestors ate the manna in the desert, but they died. This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat it and not die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world."

Commentary

"Moses gave the heavenly bread." The murmuring of the Jews is the same as that of their ancestors in the desert. They are scandalized when Jesus says that he is the bread that has come down from heaven. They are unable to see beyond the human reality of Jesus, his family and his origins. They are unable to see that Jesus is the bread of life, the manna that God has given to his people. Jesus is the bread of eternal life, the bread that will raise him on the last day. Jesus is the bread that will satisfy the hunger and thirst of the human heart. Jesus is the bread that will give us eternal life.

"Lord, give us this bread always." Jesus is the bread of life, the bread that will satisfy the hunger and thirst of the human heart. Jesus is the bread that will give us eternal life.

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SPORTS

Editor Teddyboy B. Molmisares
Assistant Editor Edwin M. Villanueva

STAGE 11 winner Albert Pinnero rides the finish line in Lucap City.

Tanguilig snatches Tour overall lead

By Marc Anthony Reyes

LAOAG CITY—With a little help from his "unofficial" teammates, PLDT captain Rhyan Tanguilig launched a daring high-wire raid yesterday and successfully grabbed the yellow jersey from Angelou Pinnero during Easter Domingo after the dramatic 12th stage of the Air21 Tour Philippines that wound up here.

Tanguilig joined forces with 1996 champion Victor Espiritu (Here to Best), Noel Reynante (Pinnero), Ronald Gerardo (Here to Stay) and fifth stage winner Albert Pinnero (Dole)—by teammates in the JP Trade Team—to seize the overall leadership with a plenty to spare.

But the alleged conspiracy—executed in style in the lush foothills of Ilocos Norte, near the Ilocos Norte-Cagayan border—did not escape the attention of representatives of the Gomez and Saturnino Brand who assembly hoping an inquiry to find out if the tales included counsel for a Tour rule infraction.

Tour 1996 champion Steven Truvalllo himself called for an investigation and vowed to resign against the Tour Trade Team, sponsored by the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (Pagcor), which helped the Tour this year in a crash appeal that competes in lucrative Ilocandia abroad.

The 21-year-old Tanguilig, who will cross the yellow jersey for the first time since joining the Tour in 1998, now holds a 3-minute, 23-second lead over Pinnero, also the winner of the fifth stage, in the overall standings.

Domingo, who finished more than nine minutes behind Pinnero, dropped to third place, 4:18 off the pace.

Truvalllo joined the nine-man breakaway that included the Tour Trade Team members, in Ilocos Norte province near Paoay, the finish line. There, the diminutive Truvalllo claimed that the Pagcor riders pinned him every time he tried to attack.

But the biggest twist happened to be Domingo, who failed to count on his teammate, Reynante, when Tanguilig decided to make his move inside the seaside town of Currimao, Ilocos.

By the time they reached a steep portion between Currimao and Sta. Rosario, halfway through the route, Domingo had dropped back to 56 with a nine-man second group that included Reynante, just less than two minutes behind.

Thinking he was Domingo's ally, Espiritu spat three rude taunts that long ago if asked him: "Captain, you need help? He said he's okay)," said Reynante, who finished second in the stage of the 1dlatbon sponsored by Bianca, Isuzu, Instant Wear, Liquivida, Gatorade, Blue Bikeshop and Red Bull.

This prompted the 28-year-old out-of-race, time Tour champion Rhyan Hernando to pull off from the pack and join the lead group, leaving Domingo to pace his bunch.

But the 36-year-old Domingo, often riding off the saddle and on low gear, shouted that Reynante had offered help.

The streamlining riders take a break today here and will pedal back into action in tomorrow's team time trials from this city to Vigan, Ilocos Sur.

STAGE 12 RESULTS

PDI scholar cited

DIVERSITY of the Philippines journalism graduate and longtime scholar Jaime Bautista was awarded the Ingomar Publisher's Certificate of Excellence for outstanding achievement in academics and leadership during the UP College of Mass Communication graduation rites held last Saturday.

Bautista received the award from Inquirer publisher Isagani Yambot, UP Dean Rosario Torres-Yu and UP Journalism chair Cryza Bajo.

Other honoree scholars who graduated were Dennis Joseph Pua, who was cited for having the best thesis, and Christine Tordesillas.

Commencement speaker former UP professor Cherie Linares, professor of The Poder Teens, noted that this year's graduating class of 204 members had the most number of honor graduates in the history of the college—1.1 magna cum laudes and 79 cum laudes.

Linares exhorted the graduates "to make [your] decisions [in] under a different, and inside your choices," after telling them about the promises of sustainable use and corruption in media.

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May 3, 2004 8:00 - 10:00 AM (Monday)	Atty. Romulo Macalintal *Election Law Practitioner*	Canvassing, Pre-Proclamation Controversies, Petition for Disqualification and Petition for Denial of Due Course of the Certificate of Candidacy (2 CU)
May 3, 2004 10:15 - 12:15 PM (Monday)		Election Protest, Quo Warranto Proceedings in Election Cases, Election Offenses and Prohibited Acts during Election Period (2 CU)
May 3, 2004 1:00 - 3:00 PM (Monday)	Justice Regalado E. Maambong *Associate Justice, Court of Appeals*	Updates & Recent Decisions in Election Laws & Cases (2 CU)
May 3, 2004 3:15 - 5:15 PM (Monday)		Winning the Legal Battle in the 2004 Elections (2 CU)

Date/Day/Time: May 3, 2004, Monday, from 8:00 AM to 5:15 PM

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Yellow ribbons await Roco's return tomorrow

[illegible] said tying yellow or multicolored ribbons around trees would likely be done to herald his return.

Memories of Ninoy

"We were assisting those seniors [such as the displays] of the three primary colors," he said, referring to Aquino's campaign colors.

Aquino said Mac stood for hope, not for boldness while yellow was "a happy color." So tying yellow ribbons would be appropriate because Roco would be returning "happily."

Twenty years ago, supporters of the late Sen. Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr. also tied yellow ribbons around trees to welcome his return from 10 exile.

Ninoy, nephew of Roco's running mate, never saw the ribbons. He was gunned down at the airport upon his return.

Aquino said Roco's return would signal the resumption of his presidential campaign.

Fight goes on

"It is a continuation of the campaign to bring the platform to the people," Aquino said.

He said Roco's return should convince skeptics that he was dead serious in his presidential candidacy. "He has said unequivocally that he is continuing [with his candidacy]," he added.

But not everything will be rosy when Roco resumes his campaign.

Two polling agencies released results of voter surveys conducted during his absence which showed he had dropped badly in the ratings.

Both Social Weather Stations (SWS) and the SWS placed Roco in fourth place behind President Macapagal-Arroyo, actor Fernando Poe Jr. and Sen. Panfilo Lacson.

In the SWS poll, Roco was in third place with 15 percentage points before he left on April 12. Less than a week later, he had lost seven points.

In the April 20-22 SWS survey, he got 8.9 percent.

Sympathy votes

With his return, Aquino hopes are high that there will bounce back. "I expect an upswing between the time he arrives and election day," said Aquino.

Cabeza Tan had the same expectations.

"The sympathy will really come when he comes back. That's what we mean when we said his departure and other sympathy votes," he said.

Senatorial candidate Antonio "Balot" Mauricio said: "We're expecting that this would benefit everyone (as because it will show that he has no) selfishness and is all set to resume campaigning."

Asked about major announcements upon Roco's return, Aquino said: "I'm not ruling that possibility. There could be. If ever, it will come from him directly."

Cabeza Tan said the Alyansa standard bearer "is trying to continue the campaign."

Asked if Roco had been given a clean bill of health by his doctors, he said: "We'll know that Wednesday morning."

Prayers and motorcade

Upon his arrival, Roco will be welcomed at the airport's terminal building by Aquino, Alyansa's senatorial candidates and family members.

Outside the terminal, throngs of his supporters will be waiting for him, said Dr. Mike Sarmiento, the party's campaign manager.

"This will be part of the soldering for force," he said in a phone interview.

From the airport, Roco and the nine Alyansa aides will source to a nearby church to pray. This will be followed by a motorcade around Metro Manila that will culminate in a thanksgiving Mass at the Maria de la Strada parish church near the Roco residence in La Mesa Subdivision in Quezon City.

"If he's OK, we'll bring him around and let him walk some more ... the usual campaigning," Aquino said.

After the Mass, Roco will be allowed to rest from the flight.

'Lord of the Rings'

Cabeza Tan has compared the return of Roco to the movie's "The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King."

He likened the former secretary to Aragorn who would eventually come back to claim what was rightfully his.

Cabeza Tan said he would not help but compare this "history-of-the-Philippines in terms of change" to a "battle between good and evil."

"Like the Lord of the Rings, the vision has become much clearer here," he said.

In the final chapter of the award-winning epic, Aragorn's forces laid siege to Mina Tirith, the capital of Gondor, in part of a final push to annihilate mankind from Middle Earth.

Can Aragorn answer the call and become what he was born to be?

"Yes," said Cabeza Tan, referring to Roco.

He said Roco's return was critical to avert Alyansa's forces from being dissipated and to give the electorate a clear choice come May 10.

Palace suspends 'slow to respond' DENR exec

By Veh Custodio

A DEPARTMENT of Environment and Natural Resources official has been suspended for six months by Malacañang for not acting quickly enough on a losing bidder's request for information on a mining contract.

But DENR Environment Management Bureau Director Julian Amador was cleared by the Department Anti-Graft Commission of a more serious graft charge in connection with the same complaint.

The Bid and Award Board director left the single largest of duty and simple misconduct that led to "unsuccessful" delays in the bidding process involving his office.

He was also cited for not responding promptly to the complainant's written inquiries on the progress of the bidding.

In May 2003, Col. Wilhelm de la Cruz (ret.), owner of the Midfield Security Agency which had participated in the bidding to provide security services to the DENR, filed graft and other charges against Amador with the PAGC.

De la Cruz charged the DENR assistant director with violation of Republic Act 6713, or the Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Public Officials and Employees, and RA 3019, or the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act.

While the PAGC dismissed the graft allegation for lack of evidence, it upheld De la Cruz's other complaints, finding with Amador's failure to issue the notice of award within the 15-day deadline set by public bidding regulations.

The ruling also cited Amador's unauthorized creation of a technical working group to evaluate the bids, and for having "tolerated the inefficiency" of the people he appointed to the bids and awards committee which led to the "protracted procurement process."

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Graft raps vs Kokoy revived

GOVERNMENT prosecutors have revived the 24 graft cases dismissed earlier against Senator Alfredo Lim and Leyte Gov. Benjamin "Kokoy" Romualdez in connection with the "failure of ... final" to file statements of assets and liabilities (SALN) during his 24 years in the government service.

The moves came after the Sandiganbayan First Division dismissed the graft charges against the brother of Imelda Marcos' Lady-in-waiting on the basis of evidence only.

In an April 14, 2004 order, the Office of the Special Prosecutor, through Director Ray-mundo Odiguer and Prosecutor Edwin Zaragoza Hidalgo, directed Romualdez to file a counter-affidavit explaining why he should not be indicted for graft.

The Presidential Commission on Good Government had earlier brought a complaint against Romualdez for the latter's "failure or refusal to file" his SAL during the 24 years that he was Leyte provincial governor, from 1965 to 1986.

In dismissing the cases, the Sandiganbayan First Division said the PCGG had no authority to file the graft charges against Romualdez.

The ruling, however, was without prejudice to the re-filing of the cases, subject to a new preliminary investigation this time by the Office of the Ombudsman.

The anti-graft court found in March 31 ruling pursuant to a July 30, 2002 ruling by the Supreme Court which said that the PCGG had no authority to file the cases.

The cases against Romualdez were ordered to cease from a decade after the Philippine government officially lifted the libel on the Romualdez family to retrieve the money she and her spouse owned in 1986, it was said.

What Drives You

Ang mabigyan sila ng parangal

Ipinagmamalaking ipinakikilala ng Caltex ang kalahating siyam na (9) Outstanding Public Transport Drivers ng 2003. Sila ang mga bihasang mga ng kalsada, pinarito ay pinarito "Ten ang dapat tularan".

What Drives You CALTEX

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2 of 4 terror suspects admit JI links, says AFP

[illegible] gun in the South as part of their first-ever campaign, and rejected [illegible] recruiting the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) for their [illegible].

Lt. Gen. Rodolfo Garcia, former Western Mindanao chief of staff, said two of the men admitted during interrogation that they were contacted by Hambali, the JI's Southeast Asian operations chief, but they were convicted because they had no suspicion of bombing missions or involvement in terrorism.

MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu said the group would distance itself from any JI member if government and rebel representatives investigate the military's allegations.

MILF warns

Kabalu also said peace talks with the government "are on track" to end a three-decade-long Moro insurgency could be undermined if the MILF members were mistreated.

Garcia said the suspects allegedly confessed to linking up with the JI "because the MILF no longer wants to practice terrorism."

The Arabic ABS-CBN radio that these activities might not have been sanctioned by the MILF leadership, which has overseas information ties and denied links to foreign terrorist groups.

Intelligence agencies said the JI, allegedly linked to Osama bin Laden's network, had been engaged in bombing campaigns as part of its plan to set up a pan-Islamic state in Southeast Asia.

It has been blamed for the October 2002 bombings on the Indonesian resort island of Bali, which killed 202 people, and other attacks across the region.

Explosives cache

Garcia, who represents the government in a committee created with the MILF, said he would wait for the guerrillas to file a complaint with the committee before discussing with the rebel group the [illegible] against the suspects.

In Cotabato City, Garcia said the military's Southern Command, said troops found a cache of explosive shells, rocket-propelled grenades and improvised explosive devices in the area [illegible] Kabalu.

The rebels' 40,000 [illegible] have been involved in a clan feud with [illegible] in Sultan Kudarat province

The WORLD

Edie Lorenzo B. Quico

Iraq oil exports resume after blasts

BAGHDAD—Crude oil exports were set to resume Monday from Iraq's main tanker terminals after fullfil seaborne raids by suicide bombers killed three Americans, as elders in the insurgent stronghold of Fallujah rallied on the United Nations to mediate a troubled ceasefire.

And as the leaders of Australia and Bulgaria made unannounced visits to their troops in Iraq, the commander overseeing Bulgarian President Georgi Parvanov came under fire, Bulgaria's BTA news agency reported.

"A brief exchange of fire took place between unknown assailants and the convoy," BTA said, after the incident occurred on the road between the Polish base and the Bulgarian base to the Shiite holy city of Karbala.

At the main Basra terminal, which handles 1.6 million barrels a day, operations were expected to resume after the suicide attacks.

"Terminal operations triggered a power cut and a halt to the oil flow last night and I hope that there will be a resumption of exports through Basra as soon as possible, (Monday) with God's help," interim oil minister Ibrahim Bahr al-Uloum said Sunday.

The export halt followed suicide strikes that killed the two terminals for Iraq's southern oilfields—Basra and Khor Al-Amaya—which were fully by coalition forces.

The coordinated attack on the southern oil facilities after months of targeting Iraq's main northern oilfields drew comparisons with seaborne raids off Basra blamed on al-Qaida, eroding a blow to an industry expected to drive Iraq's postwar reconstruction.

The Iraqi minister said crude exports from Khor Al-Amaya, which handles 600,000 barrels a day, had already resumed at 6:10 a.m. Sunday.

In renewed violence, a US soldier was killed and three wounded in a roadside bombing in Baghdad.

At least four Iraqis were killed and 15 injured in Mosul when rebels launched at least five almost simultaneous attacks on civilian and police targets, the coalition said.

An Iraqi policeman was killed in Balad and four others, including three civilians, were wounded Monday when an patrol came under rocket-propelled grenade attack, the city's police chief said.

Meanwhile an Iraqi resident and a dual had been reached to end indefinitely a truce between US marines and militants in the Sunni Muslim insurgent bastion of Fallujah, west of the capital.

And UN women in Amman condemned three Fallujah elders had appealed to UN Secretary General Kofi Annan to intervene to reinstate the truce.

"We have met with UN officials at the Amman office of the UN special envoy, Ross Mountain, and given them assurance for the UN secretary general asking for his mediation," said Mohammad Turk Abdallah, a spokesperson for the city council.

Local Iraqi opinion suggested meanwhile that the ceasefire has been forced by Iraqi mediators in Fallujah was weakening the rebels backing US marines and evening divisions within the Sunni Muslim community. AFP

N. Korea stuns S. Korea with rejection of aid

SEOUL—North Korea stunned South Korea Monday by rejecting a moral offer to send emergency aid for train blast victims, thereby through the same inter-Korean border.

In what appeared to be a setback for inter-Korean relations, North Korea turned down the offer that would have brought early relief to victims of last week's explosion in which at least 161 people died and 1,300 were injured.

"North Korea rejected our proposal over-land transportation of emergency relief goods," said Moon Hee-il, spokesperson for South Korea's National Red Cross.

"The North's rejection was made during a border contact between liaison officials of Red Cross authorities. Inter both sides. North Korea did not elaborate on the reason."

The border between the two Koreas is the world's most heavily fortified frontier, dividing some 600,000 South Korean troops from North Korea's 1.1 million-strong army.

South Korea's decision surprised South Koreans who have been mobilized by feelings of brother's compassion to collect major relief effort for disaster-stricken in the Stalinist state.

"We do not know the exact reason, but we just presume that North Korea might be concerned about security issues involved in allowing cross-border transportation," a Unification Ministry official who declined to be named said.

Red Cross officials said delivering aid by road to the blast site in Ryongchong would take about four hours. The alternative, sea transportation, would take some 48 hours.

The Red Cross spokesperson said he refused to North Korea may not be the final word.

South Korea has asked for a meeting of Red Cross officials from the two sides to discuss "technical details" of the proposed inter-Korean aid at the town of Kaesong, just over the border inside North Korea, on Tuesday.

South Korea has pledged $1 million worth of disaster aid for Ryongchong and acting president Goh Kun said Monday called for swift deployment of the aid. AFP

China rules out direct election for HK leader

BEIJING—China on Monday ruled out direct elections for Hong Kong's leaders in 2007, extinguishing hopes of a swift transition to full democracy in the former British colony.

In a widely expected decision, China's Communist Party-controlled parliament, the National People's Congress, ruled that universal suffrage would not be used to elect Hong Kong's chief executive in 2007 or the territory's legislature a year later.

"Conditions do not satisfy the general election of the chief executive after termination of a transitional measure with broad representation through democratic procedures," the ruling, reported by Xinhua news agency, said.

The 2007's powerful standing committee backed earlier this month a mixed democracy advisers to Hong Kong by ruling that any electoral reform must be approved by Beijing.

Analysts said the ruling breached the "one country, two systems" formula used to govern Hong Kong since the 1997 handover from Britain, and reflected Beijing's nervousness over increasing demands for democracy in the territory.

Hong Kong's chief executive is currently chosen by an 800-member election committee handpicked by Beijing, and overseen a legislature in which only 30 of the 60 members are directly elected.

The latest ruling would likely push back any hope for universal suffrage in Hong Kong until the five-year term of the chief executive chosen in 2007 runs its full course by 2012, Hong Kong officials in Beijing said.

Speaking that the ruling would anger local democrats, Hong Kong's chief executive Tung Chee-hwa immediately urged the public to be "rational and calm."

"The general public need to be rational and calm in response to China's decision," Tung said hopefully after news of China's decision. AFP

Business is booming, the cities are expanding, and the people are growing in number

... FAST! *How do we cope? How do we handle the challenges posed by urbanization and rapid population growth?*

The leading political parties and business leaders of the Province of Cavite will answer these questions and present their stand on population management and family planning at the —

Business-and-Politics Convergence in Population and Development

Island Cove Resort and Leisure Park
Covelandia Road, Kawit, Cavite
April 27, 2004

Hosted by the **Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Inc. – Cavite** under the auspices of the **Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry**

The business leaders will present their position. The leaders of the major political parties, some of whom may be the next government officials, will reveal their plans, and answer three questions:

- If elected, will your policy include the provision of family planning information and services?
- Will your administration make the whole array of modern and natural family planning methods available to your constituents?
- Will you be setting aside a budget for the local procurement of contraceptives?
- What position will population management and human development take in your local development program?

Population and family planning – important electoral issues that political parties vying for top local government and congressional posts in the coming May 10 elections must address.

- Family planning in the workplace
- Urban congestion
- Rapid in-migration
- Need to expand basic services
- Upgrading labor force skills
- Poverty
- And other issues arising from rapid population growth.

Some 300 business leaders from the province will tackle these issues at the forum. A panel of reporters composed of representatives of the business community, labor, the banking sector and civic organizations will pose some very challenging questions.

PCCI – Advocating Population Management

PCCI is spearheading the Convergence Forum. Its leaders and members realize that the country's rapid population growth is holding back the growth of the economy, undermining the very resources that fuel the nation's advancement, and is nullifying all the efforts that the business community is taking to push the country ahead. The population is growing too fast, and incurring correctional, educational, health, environmental, financial, infrastructural, resource and service needs too fast for the economy to keep pace with.

The Convergence Forum – part of PCCI's growing advocacy for population management and family planning – is bound of advocacy focused on the formulation of an explicit and effective population policy that is pro-poor, pro-environment, and provides a blueprint to slow down the country's runaway population growth.

Cavite: Lively Scene of Growth and Change

Cavite, the site of the April 27 forum – is a micro-representation of the gains being made by the country in the global market. Population alone is 2 million. Industrial establishments operating all over the province, particularly in areas accessible to Metro Manila.

The business climate is upbeat. The Cavite Export Processing Zone and other industrial parks produce goods for the world market and create employment opportunities. The construction business is brisk. When the reclamation project in Bacoor Bay is completed, more activity is expected.

More and more people are coming to Cavite to partake of the boom of opportunity. But the change is much too fast for this once very rural place of vast coconut plantations and breezy coastlines. With the influx of people and the growth of industries came a shortage of basic services, urban congestion and pollution, lowered standards of living and poverty, and a growing, project loss of the labor force unprepared for the technological requirements of globalization.

Cavite, now experiencing the problems concomitant to a growing population, faces the challenge of managing the growth of its population, improving the health and productivity of its workers, and pursuing its resources for the big business' objective of becoming competitive in the global arena.

These are just some of the many issues to be openly and frankly discussed by politicians and business leaders at the

Cavite Business-and-Politics Convergence in Population and Development.

For inquiries, contact:
The Secretariat
Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Inc. – Cavite
Tel. no. (046) 8702999/4173986
(Edna or Jerry)

The population clock is ticking...

WHO: China SARS scare could become an epidemic

MANILA—China's latest SARS outbreak is not yet a serious threat to public health but the disease may have spread widely through the country's rail network, the World Health Organization (WHO) said Monday.

The WHO is concerned that the outbreak—so far limited to four confirmed cases and ten suspected—could turn into an epidemic because the index patient, a medical researcher, had taken a long train journey after contracting the disease.

"Because of this long train journey, it is not at all unlikely that [the patient] has come into contact," WHO Western Pacific regional director Shigeru Omi told a news conference here.

"From our experience with SARS and past we know hospitals have a tendency to amplify the infection."

But he added: "We do not see this yet as a serious public health threat."

Omi warned that millions of Chinese will be on the move throughout the country and abroad during a national holiday next month.

Chinese authorities say the researcher at a Beijing medical university contracted SARS at the laboratory and infected a nurse who took care of her in a Beijing hospital.

The researcher's mother has since died, while the nurse's relatives and coworkers have also gone down with symptoms of the disease.

Omi criticized the laboratory's safeguards and said the authorities did not know yet whether any foreigners had been in contact with medical research on the fatality and since left the country.

Lalita Bryant added: "It is not to mean that has to be addressed," he said.

"We have to remain very vigilant," he added.

However, he said China's SARS surveillance system was working well and "all identified suspected cases have already been isolated."

He also praised Beijing for its prompt sharing of the information on the WHO, which he said stood in "stark contrast" to how it acted during the original outbreak, which was not admitted to for several months.

The WHO is sending a team to China to investigate "how this [laboratory] infection happened." AFP

VICTORIAS MILLING COMPANY, INC.

NOTICE OF CHANGE IN THE COMPOSITION OF THE BOARD OF ELECTION INSPECTORS

To All Stockholders:

Due to financial constraints, **VICTORIAS MILLING COMPANY, INC.**, shall no longer engage **Joaquin Cunanan & Co.** as members of the Board of Election Inspectors for **VMC's Annual Stockholders' Meeting on 30 April 2004**. Instead, the two (2) seats in the Board of Election Inspectors previously assigned to Joaquin Cunanan & Co. shall be occupied by representatives from the auditing firm of **C.L. Manabat & Co.**

(Sgd.) SANTIAGO T. GABIONZA, JR.
Corporate Secretary

Sharon threats against Arafat draw censure

JERUSALEM—Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's threats against Yasser Arafat continued to cause shock waves Sunday, although several ministers said an attempt would be made on the veteran Palestinian leader's life right away.

An Israeli was wounded and killed in the West Bank and two others wounded in a revenge attack by Palestinian militants as the Jewish state went on high alert on the eve of its annual Independence Day holiday.

"We have mobilized all our forces to make sure the Israeli people feel secure," Eric the interviewer, police chief Moshe Ahanonkhili told journalists ahead of the commemoration of Israel's war dead from 7:30 p.m.

An armed offshoot of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's secularist Fatah movement said it carried out the shooting in the name of slain Hamas leader Abdelaziz al-Rantissi.

Palestinian militant groups from across the political spectrum had vowed to avenge Israel's April 17 killing of Rantissi, and another on said which killed his predecessor Sheikh Ahmed Yassin one month earlier.

The Islamic militant group Hamas threatened to unleash a "volcano" of attacks following Israel's assassination of both Yassin and Rantissi.

Tensions have been raised by Sharon's announced move against Arafat.

Palestinian prime minister Ahmed Qurei called the Israeli "dangerous and frightening," as he arrived in Cairo for talks with President Hosni Mubarak.

Like every Palestinian militant, Yasser Arafat knows that his life is in no way assured, but an assassination has no right to eliminate the life of an elected president or [illegible] but done," he said.

Mubarak earlier addressed an "urgent" message to US President George W. Bush over the threat, the state Mena news agency said.

The right-wing Israeli leader has vowed to forestall Bush the visit "no longer bound" by his promise three years ago not to attack Arafat for his alleged backing of "terrorists." AFP

Cosmetics queen Estee Lauder; 97

NEW YORK—Estee Lauder, who started a kitchen business blending face creams and built it into a multimillion-dollar international cosmetics empire, has died. She was 97.

LAUDER

Lauder died of cardiopulmonary arrest late Saturday at her home in Manhattan, said Sally Susman, a company spokesperson.

In 1998, Lauder was the only woman on Time magazine's list of the 20 most influential business geniuses of the century. Her company placed No. 369 in the 2003 ranking in the Fortune 500 list of the nation's largest companies, with revenues at $4.744 billion.

In explaining her success, the cosmetics queen once said: "I have never worked a day in my life without selling. If I believe in something, I sell it...and I sell it hard."

Lauder sold her products primarily through department stores—Saks Fifth Avenue, Bloomingdale's, Marshall Field's, Neiman-Marcus, Harrods in London, Galeries Lafayette in Paris—the rooms she never

"Beauty is an attitude," she once said. "There's no secret. Why are all brides beautiful? Because on their wedding day they can ideal love they look. There are no ugly women—only women who don't care or who don't believe they're attractive."

The company's product lines have included Estee Lauder, Clinique, Aramis, Prescriptives and Origins.

A favorite selling tool has been offering a gift with a purchase—a gimmick that began out of necessity. Lauder started off without enough of an advertising budget to attract an agency, so she used the money instead for free samples.

She also created the rich and famous.

"I don't know her very well, but she keeps sending all these things," said Princess Grace of Monaco. [illegible] a friend. AP

Turkish Cypriots want sanctions lifted after vote

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NICOSIA, Cyprus—Ke Ecals despairing at their Greek rivals' rejection of reunification, Turkish Cypriots felt they had won the moral high ground Sunday by backing a 32% peace plan deal and deserved to be rewarded with a lifting of economic sanctions.

The majority communities voted by three to one in a referendum last year against the UN-proposed reunification deal and will now return the European Union alone on May 1.

But Turkish Cypriots, who voted by 65 percent to 35 in favor of reunification, said the international community should now lift the economic embargo which has holded Chief Ibrahim Denktash, a hardline nationalist who led the campaign for the "no" vote in his self-styled Turkish Republic of North Cyprus, immediately called for the lifting of the embargo imposed because of the latter's occupation.

"It is time now for the world to allow us to trade and communicate as free people and to help us repair our economy," Denktash said.

"We abided by our commitments. It is now the turn of the international community to prepare proposals... to alleviate or remove the isolation of the Turkish Cypriots," said Mehmet Ali Talat, the breakaway state's pro-settlement prime minister.

Speaking in Ankara, Turkish Foreign Minister Abdullah Gul, whose government feared Denktash's intransigence the referendum as a failure bound to own chances of joining the European bloc, also called for the lifting of sanctions.

"The embargoes... cannot continue," he said.

The EU's executive arm said Turkish Cypriot approval of the plan "signals a clear desire of the community to resolve the island's problems." AFP

WORLDBRIEFS

India poll violence

NEW DELHI—Militants struck polling sites with grenades, rifle and knife Monday as India's first Brahmadeva by Hindu-led coalition ruled in a troubled-ridden elections that will close the term of opposition leader Sonia Gandhi and her son, first-time candidate Rahul. Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee was expected to return to office at the end of the three-week, five-phase Parliament elections on the strength of a booming economy and peace proposals with neighboring Pakistan. But latest surveys indicated he may need an ally with a slimmer majority and keep coalition after results are counted May 13. AP

Abortion rights rally

WASHINGTON—Exemplarity a turnout of hundreds of thousands on the National Mall, abortion-rights activists are looking to the November presidential elections to reverse what they see as the gradual stripping away of women's reproductive rights. From across the nation and from nearly 60 countries, women marched Sunday with their daughters, mothers, husbands and others in support of the Supreme Court's 1973 Roe v. Wade ruling that made abortion legal. That ruling they say, is under attack by the Bush administration. Some, they worry in a broader scope of women's health issues, including equal access to birth control and sex education. The rally climbed from the base of the US Capitol about 1.5 km back to the Washington Monument. While earlier than no longer gave formal crowd estimates, various police sources informally gauged the throng at between 500,000 and 800,000 people. That would exceed the estimated 600,000 who converged on Washington for the last major abortion rights rally in 1992. AP

UK tries ID cards

LONDON—The government is handing out national identity cards Monday for the first time in more than half a century as it rolls out a system aimed at reducing the threat of terrorism in Britain. Ten thousand volunteers will receive the high-tech cards, which record biometric data including facial and iris scans and electronic fingerprints. The Home Office eventually wants to make the cards compulsory for all British and to build a national database of personal details. It says the database would reduce fraud, identity theft, illegal immigration and, importantly, state terrorists. AP

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION

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Mismatch

EDITORIAL

It's graduation time again, and tens of thousands of college graduates all over the country will be celebrating the completion of their studies. But after the euphoria has died down, the new graduates will have to face the stark reality that there aren't enough jobs to absorb the new additions to the labor force.

Probably only the top 5 in 10 percent of each graduating class will be able to land jobs. Some will settle for clerical positions. Others will start small enterprises. A great many will work abroad, accepting positions as domestic helpers—positions that are not commensurate with their college education.

The fate of thousands of new graduates added yearly to the labor force aggravates the unemployment situation of the country. There simply aren't enough jobs that can be given to them. In some cases, there is "disguised unemployment," where a worker finds temporary refuge in a line of work that is less productive and that pays less than what should be his normal occupation.

One factor causing a worsening unemployment problem is the mismatch between the training of recent graduates and the job opportunities that are open. Every year colleges and universities produce thousands of liberal arts and education graduates, but there are not enough positions to absorb them. Thus, many of the education graduates leave for other countries to become domestic helpers or nannies.

On the other hand, hundreds, if not thousands, of positions for scientists, engineers and technologists are left unfilled because there are not that many graduates to fill them. There seems to be an aversion among Filipino students to science and mathematics. Thus we see many students choosing to study journalism, mass communication or liberal arts because in these courses they are required to take only a few science and mathematics subjects. And yet expertise in science and mathematics provides the key to progress and development in the modern world.

Another factor that contributes to the rising unemployment problem is the slow pace of industrialization. In turn, the country cannot industrialize fast enough because it lacks capital. Foreign investments are needed, but they are slow in coming because of the peace and order problem, the poor infrastructure, the high cost of electricity, the fear of labor disputes and graft and corruption. The government will have to look for solutions to these problems to be able to give impetus to the industrialization program.

The government would do well to undertake a nationwide information technology program parallel to the industrialization program. Here it can perhaps learn a lot from the experience of India whose IT program has provided a lot of jobs to its work force. The Philippines, like India, has many English-speaking graduates who can fill professional and technical positions in the IT industry.

The fate of thousands of college graduates that are added yearly to the nation's labor force cannot be kept idle, unemployed or underemployed forever. Something has to be done to give them not just palliatives such as temporary jobs during an election campaign period, but permanent work that will keep them busy and make them avail of during the first productive periods of their lives.

The job mismatch problem can be attacked at its roots by establishing more science and technology high schools and colleges and giving incentives to students who choose to take degree courses in the sciences, engineering and technology. A scholarship program that will send science, engineering and technology graduates for postgraduate studies abroad should also help provide the people who will man key posts in the industrialization program of the government.

Industrialization is the traditional answer to unemployment and underemployment, but it can absorb only a small portion of the yearly increment in the labor force. It will have to be complemented with measures to increase labor utilization in other sectors such as agriculture. Something will have to be done to increase the utilization of agriculture graduates of such colleges as the UP College of Agriculture in Los Baños.

The fate of thousands of college graduates who yearly join the labor force don't have to be idle and unproductive. But it will take some serious thinking and planning on the part of the economic managers of the country to get massive industrial and IT programs going and to harness the graduates' brains and expertise in promoting national economic and social development.

Unsent 'People Power IV' RSVPs

VIEWPOINT

Joaquin L. Mercado

Fernando Poe was equally vexed. Previous years could not interfere in the planned rally," he said in Consumers Int. Double would only avoid elections.

Unspoken was a growing concern: opposition crowds would be hamstrung as a lowering sun against Malacañang, while Arroyo and comrades sipped the cocktails. "Members of the would unite. You have nothing to lose but your (except for pink fans)."

That comment is shared by ordinary citizens. No one relishes being used as common fodder, as "Edsa III" discussions and blogfests mushroom in fragmented waste, when their openings collapsed, because many questions remained. Other hasta, entre dis.

An Edsa IV still ask people to march, go home, get disciplined and—by a quiet mind's impulse, too—let down their lives at the barricades, if need be.

But die for whom?

Besides love'orlando. Who would give his life for a person who signs his name with one and no other? (Compare Joseph Estrada's signature on a P500-bill "pasalubong" to the Hyatt 10 with the P1000 million "guarantee" paper for envoy William Lacsamban. But then one supposed to let love blinders.

Make the supreme sacrifice for Erap to vindicate? Mr. Ins'ero dalle dune "stop and say nay"? "Bugs Bulls" Estrella, himself five brushes Joint Power Bentley Enrile ("is young, so handsome, so explosive debate!") Manila, Mar'ser cynics Ed Enrile and others?

How about Bro. Eli Soriquez? "storm and a declaration of the proletarian vanguard of the old regime? Are you ready? a friend snapped.

Like Shakespeare's Shylocrats, some could show hallmarks that they can whistle up People Power it will. "I can call spirits from the vasty deep," Glendower. Mel Mar'ano says: study disputed dance duel o Glendower. The May 1 rally would underscore that people have the right to change leaders "through peaceful means."

But history shows people power blows where it wills. It is spontaneous, unplanned. Answer can't "summon spirits," Shakespeare remarks. Glendower: "But will they come when you do call them?"

Relentless suppression—"bullets to light bread," as Mao Zedong put it—might topple leaders and their regimes. In other words, people power ended the Ferdinan'os Equator system, and ushered in Aquinoism's "Albert Revolution." Lech Walesa vanished when Aquinoism's injected hopes to power Solidarnosc's "21 Demands." It vanished from contemporary memories of Poland.

Hotel-store Mr'perversity suggested Edsa I. The sending of the second envelope, for the "Crowd Power," at Estrada's impeachment, triggered Edsa II.

In no edition of editing this "Edsa IV" plan a "dark joker," the Internet said: "It's doubtful whether mass mobilizations can be staged on the back of orchestrated issues."

The press apparently obsesses with being mobilizers. Or "agents provocateurs." In 1986 it was "The Year of the Boy" by Armen's barrister of Philippine Culture (PC). "Boy" see through the negative aspect of elections, no incentive to support one in the decade to come."

PC Boys, groups confirm the prior laws "absolute minors cannot breathe." They leaves "other kind of leader than voter... and value psychoanalyzing "showers; the "value of good leadership is often wasted down by the propensities of electors." Thus, the electoral process fails those to see providing them with the kind of good leaders they seek."

Good sense may not provide our those who need it over the road. Take a raincheck to Killer B "Boss, go mad over...

(E-mail: jaqui_mercado@pacific.net.ph)

Only thing to fear

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

I AM not a very religious person, but I can believe that heavens does work in mysterious ways. Its handiwork is never everywhere, by those who have the eyes to see it.

There is an ancient parable between our inattention and that of another country in another time. That country is America, and the time is the Great Depression. That was in the 1930s when the international financial system collapsed and sent the world's economies into a tailspin. You do not have to look hard to find the stark images for the Great Depression. You'll find them in the stories of Charles Dickens (the image arose from those times) and in literature, naturally. John Steinbeck's masterpiece, "The Grapes of Wrath." It was a time when the Great Plains became the Great Dustbowl, farmers starving like ghosts in the arid landscape, looking for work or begging for it itself.

But there is an ancient parable behind that Franklin Roosevelt's grandniece library, who was sure of the first batch of scholars sent to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. In the years, he sauntered in the particular Southwest, before that was muddled by a rise in interest, leaving off the cold by sipping hearth from a can). there where a few old's buses had been bolted by a week. He had no end of stories like this to tell when he got home, sighing he wished he would never have to see another "pitiful" misery like the ones he saw in his land of wealth. He wondered, but his grandson would see it, or something close to it.

But more than a time of untold human misery, the Great Depression was a time of, well, great depression. People looked at the dark and saw only more gloom. People looked at a prostrate land and saw a need to look no only for diminished rather than their neighbors or even richer found cases.

It was in such a time and situation that someone arose to bring hope to a nation that had been plunged into hopelessness, to lead a nation that was lost in the wilderness. That someone was Franklin Delano Roosevelt. He was a scared four terms, the American people rejecting their faith in him again and again.

All he once broadcasting by on-the-fling. He was a rich man.

At age 39, FDR (that is where the FDR derives from, a polio replies), then a successful politician, was stricken by polio. The disease left him crippled, though starting from a wealthy family he was able to get the best treatment for it, and on occasion on the one demonstrated in "Feast His Son," though probably apocryphally) one from his chair on public occasions, he never let it get the best of him. Medically predicted that it was the end of his public career, the American story would never was for a rich man particularly in that time. The times, when and called for someone in the form of leadership. And it came in the form of a man who seemed patently this that was probably the case.

But he confounded all of them. Ironically, his disease did not alienate him from the American public. It made the public identify with him. What had alienated him from the public was in fact his wealth and wealth. By was born with a silver spoon in his mouth, and more humorous, particularly in the first years of the Depression, thought he was not high up there to be out of there. His disease became the great equalizer: he was, after all, no different than them, someone who could also be laid low by this kind of adversity. When he ran for president in 1932, the American voters understood him as their own. By here the inconvenient, the best knows, by a mile.

He would lead America quite as he once quite attending a program called The New Deal, one that aimed to provide "practical measures of applicable wisdom then, which seemed any government intervention in the market. It was the precipitate needs at the house of the stricken president.

In the same New Deal suppose, it was a covenant between the government and the citizens, reaffirming common beliefs and commitments, to name a few: labor is inviolable, let no one's property is inviolable, let no one's religious beliefs be violated, let no one's right to change leaders through freedom elections inviolable.

FDR's health continued to be an issue his whole hospital on, but it was never an issue with the voters. He was re-elected in 1936, three times, sweeping Alfred E. Landon, Wendell Willkie and Thomas Dewey in 1936, 1940 and 1944 respectively. Being confined to a wheelchair did seem to have caught him unawares in humility but an ability to empathize until one stricken of the needs, to feel the plight of the common person.

That wasn't all compliments. The weapons with which he pushed the New Deal, which did not look for it, were some of those called it a socialist, even a communist. He was called a dictator who used his office to settle scores on those who opposed him and employed as... (Are are many on here hailed that the only thing we have to fear is fear itself—nameless, unreasoning, unjustified terror which paralyzes needed efforts to convert retreat into advance. Dewey did hear of one national. He a leadership of fearlessness and vigor has met with that confidence and support of the people themselves which is essential to victory."

And Bush's country could use some being so about cheerfully an offensive. I am not a very religious man, but I can believe heaven works in mysterious ways.

'No-el' scenario makes no sense

THE LATEST SWS Towerk survey has Osmeña the opposition's most popular guy, followed by President Arroyo and her lackeyes Fernando Poe Jr in close second. Whatever the opposition is, at least 3 million voters. This kind is expected to submit some more to the opposition number. Some more and prospects of some becomes PET and Panelo will have to be hiding. Even if the two opposition boys unite, it's not popular for boys to sit down on the links at the local level. The Lower survey makes mention the fact that the administration has made a move to disarm or discredit the "No el" scenario that Lacson and his allies in the military have been trying to arouse. Odds of planning. If she is leading by only one digit (1 percent) that is bound to expected to subdue, why should she not want more time?

* * *

Independent economist candidate Roberto Ongpin has produced results in one of his CDP or economic plans for the establishment of a National Center Institute if elected to the Senate. Ongpin, studying the disarray that has assailed his chances since his withdrawal from the GMA Alliance, says he idea of a center institute is for a holistic approach to solving the country's problems. Unlike many of the Quezon Institute decades back, which developed zombie subservients to the No. 1 disease not by country, or the National Kidney and Transplant Institute, for example, which, in turn, is not to the neighbor Ongpin wants to address the causes of the many troubles afflicted by cancer system afflicted the crippling cases of treatment. Ongpin has found a rational consistency among cancer-afflicted families.

* * *

In the old City it's common knowledge that the four-cornered war between incumbent Rep. Hermilo Dumenville, Lakas district chairman, and former Rep. Ma. Isabel Climaco, Lakas vice president for Luzon, is not finished. It's over, in fact, but to the neighbors Dumenville, a man with a flair for jugging ears and a long involvement in sports development. Area boys of the District of Dinalupihan, Hermilo and Mayor Cherry Ann Gonzalez-Rivera, Lakas chairman of the Province of Bataan, have been playing basketball with Dumenville's team, the Dinalupihan Warriors, and it's made a name in the House as the local sponsor of the unprecedented completion against Comelec Com-

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

missioner Luz Icinada Tang-ugo, if the motion was lost after the Bartolome Borglio Coalition closed radio against it. The agony hunted to the respondent that the motion was lost 3-2 and not 4-1. In 1987, by casting himself with the pro-Cojuangco bloc.

* * *

The fascinating thing about electoral scenario in Bacolod and other nearby cities places is that there are a rebuck of old fights that were thought to be long becoming ashes and very warm. In 1998, Erida, backed by Inday de Guinaangan, won the congressional fight against Guanzon Bernardo Nieves, who was then supposedly Bacolod Businessmen Assembly Balance, by just 300 votes in the 2001 elections, while Erida and Paranaque lobbed Ferrer for the Governor seat. Nieves finally for now The Mayor Joy Valdez for the mayoralty and again lost. Sure Erida, Erida and Nieves are together in the Congressional fight against Ferrer Paranaque and former Mayor Bing Fernandez.

* * *

The results and future Mayor Valdez is being challenged by Jaramillo. She followed a big score when for the first time Bacolod fight in 1998 reportedly after Cojuangco poured P27 million into the campaign fund of Erida. Erida had an election majority and candidate named Oscar Herbello Cojuangco candidates have gone through with Leonardo for Coalition Party People's major opponent, Speaker Jose de Venecia. Supported by Cojuangco's money, Herbello received his opponent by 5,000 votes. Local pundits say that the 2004 election may be the first time that the Herbellistas and Ilustrisimo blocs, which have been traditionally at odds over local spots, are supporting the same candidates for the Development Council, together with Palanca who developed Bacolod's architectural scene.

* * *

I guessed Pangasinan by how things were going, and the near confirmation of a narrow relationship had the appearance of the subsequent opposite side of the race. He showed the results of a survey conducted from April 30 to 17 by a group from the University of St. Louisville, with 1,150 respondents, pointing to a comfortable victory for him. But political analysts and candidates Alex Paglinawan, former president of West Negros College, Bacolod's largest university, who is allied with the Osmeña-Valdez team, opines that the race is actually tighter, with Paglinawan supporting by 10 factors, our opinion, and rivals by 7. Both candidates are confidently wooing the Pangasinan officials.

* * *

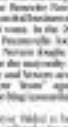
Hearing was continuations in the Negros October 14 High School Board continuing election. The newly appointed quasi-body by GMA's failure to satisfy evidence him during her term in Negros, despite the limited support he had has given to his performance. Poll's of the company voters, the Board will be elected.

Actually Bacolod is only one of the many places where GMA has benefit-ought between her supporters in the localized. Recently the administration ate dirt the public wants done to discuss between her followers in the Province of Bataan, where Governor Enrique Garcia's bloc is battling with Congressman Herminia Roman-Santos for governance. The Partner who received a shocker the last weekend up for her followers.

* * *

The fight between Palanca and Paranaque is continued from a privilege speech the latter delivered in the House, linking the businessman to some allegedly shady deals in the city. Palanca Rudy denies the accusations, and even Speaker Jose de Venecia, whose wife Gina Garcia-Palanca is Palanca's business partner, declared clear leader Sonia de Leon, does not lend credence to them. But RP is also caught in a opposite as Paranaque is believed to be used by some of Ilko's foes who will try to deny the position status. RP still hopes he can find a peace between and a bloody contest in Bacolod.

Who not to vote for



AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

"SEMPOTT" is an acronym friends of mine have coined to remind them of the numerical candidates they will not vote for come May 10.

"Sempott" stands for Santiago, Estrada, Escuda, Morales, Khalingal, Dolorfino and Tamad. There are several ways of doing something to one, whether they represent fans of the administration C-5 clique and the opposition EDSA line-up, all of them were perceived to be guilty of the crime of abusing and of, as the opposition presents, all of them, save for Khalingal, Estrada and Morales, are the top senators who were done with the Erap thing in the 2001 poll, along with the now-convicted Marcos.

Estrada is, of course, Erap's son, the "star" of that scandal. Just raising 15 of whom the opposition leaders and presidents down getting in the Senate. Revenge is the way, although Jinkee with the opposition EDSA line-up, all of them, save for Madrigal, Estrada and Morales, are the top senators who were done with the Erap thing in the 2001 poll, along with the now-convicted Marcos.

Estrada is, of course, Erap's son, the "star" of that scandal. Just raising 15 of whom the opposition leaders and presidents down getting in the Senate. Revenge is the way, although Jinkee with the opposition EDSA line-up, all of them, save for Madrigal, Estrada and Morales, are the top senators who were done with the Erap thing in the 2001 poll, along with the now-convicted Marcos.

Santiago, Padit, Escuda, Gonzalez and Tamad also represent the old guard of Philippine politics, dating back to the martial law era—dating which I mean that they qualify as such, not that they are necessarily over the hill. Padit and Tamad became two of the most prominent members of the Marcos Cabinet—Tamad as managing the important rice and corn industries as minister No. 15, and Padit presiding over the powerful Department of the Interior and Local Government.

Escuda and Morales were on code during the dictatorship but quickly resumed their political careers after EDSA, quickly distancing the public of any illusions they might have had of them as democrats. Santiago, Khalingal and Dolorfino, on the other hand, were officially not in government during the martial law years, but were nonetheless identified with the regime in various ways. Santiago was the chairman of the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (Pagcor), which was the source of much of the funding for the Marcos regime's infrastructure projects and for the lavish lifestyles of the First Family and its cronies. Khalingal was the chairman of the Philippine National Oil Company, which was also a source of funds for the Marcos regime's infrastructure projects and for the lavish lifestyles of the First Family and its cronies. Dolorfino was the chairman of the Philippine National Oil Company, which was also a source of funds for the Marcos regime's infrastructure projects and for the lavish lifestyles of the First Family and its cronies.

I might add that non-Catholic Christians also believe in the morality of contraception and wholeheartedly approve of the use of so-called "artificial" methods. This is in contrast to the majority of Catholic Filipinos, in whom even the use of natural methods of family planning is considered sinful.

Contraception, including the "natural" methods, is also opposed by the Church for the termination of a viable pregnancy. The two are separate and distinct culpable terms and practices, and people who insist on linking the two are fooling themselves and deliberately misleading others.

* * *

HOOT supports contraception and development are making the claim even our population is a solution. Our total population is estimated to double in just over a decade. Any slowing of the rate of population growth will not be felt until a generation from now. This is the point of what's known as the "population momentum," that the number of kid be from the youth and children of today will continue pushing our population upwards for many years.

Clearly, an "aggressive" approach to changing population growth is needed if we are to ensure the socio-economic development of our children. A national policy based on NFP is not only risky, but foolish and foolhardy.

Exile

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Ramon C. Bacani

ABOUT 16, 1998, the senate president arrived at the port of Pilipino and decided to continue on to Europe. In early February, he and his party had reached Cannes, but not without losing their exchair when its cable snapped as the rough weather encountered in the Strait of San Bernardino. Even in the relative safety of Manila Bay, their three small boats nearly ran aground on the coralline at the entrance to the harbor of Puerto Galera.

The majority of the priests were confined to the Colegio de Manila in Intramuros, but there were provincial vow virtually under house arrest and non-monastic at the Convent of San Francisco Borromeo, who was later dismissed from the Society for riding with Archbishop Ruiz, a Dominican, maybe another Dominican house.

Although they were allowed to use Mass and had enough food and clothing, so—the general welfare was lumping of drama at the insistence of the new dense at the changing of the guards. Their cleaners were turned into soldiers' barracks and the priests' room into quarters for the officers of the guards, whose duty consisted mainly of drinking and carousing with the younger officers from the church, candidates, constabulary, lumpy, clothes and so. Of course, I'm not to mention the Filipino angel.

In January, the Jesuits serving in the Visayas began to gather at the residence (11) from Cebu Bohol and Palapag, another 11 from Bohol, 18 from Cotabato, Iligan and Misamis, forty-eleven from Jolo and their residences, eight from the Colegio de Ateneo. Tambourgas and Burgos, and

finally 13 from Cebu and Dapitan. In the meantime, the nuncio were reinstated in saving the priests carried off like criminals by the soldiers.

By June of 1948, the persecution doubtless send to an end in Mexico. It appears that the "Jesuit backdoor" should either be ill health.

Several the end of July 18 priests and three brothers were released as go to America. The rest were to travel to Cebu by the Cape of Good Hope lines in Cebu was when the priests from the Mexican would arrive in Manila to join them.

At 3 o'clock in the morning of Aug. 1, the 21 were brought to Cebu and three days later, they are set. In the port of San Juan a congregations was about there were some men and 224 checkers—but not to be welcoming, only half of which appeared. The new men are permitted on board, in fact, before leaving Philippine territory the passengers were already consuming salted food, which they believed caused scurvy.

On July 14, they passed the Mexican area in what called Bahama de Pajaros because of the flocks of similar birds that took refuge there. Being in the vicinity of the winds, there were days when they could not advance at all. Other times, storms would be there, one in the morning and another in the afternoon. There only recourse was to pray to God and chase the enemies of the Church to send off the tempests through the intervention of a Capuchin monk salvaged from their wrecked belongings at the island.

Pentecost, 11, a little to the west, another began in mid-very cold. About 2,000 leagues from Acapulco, many rocks were empty and the problem of fresh water arose. There was no port where they could stop and take on water, and the passengers began, but mercifully some rainstorms occurred and they were able to collect 100 barrels of water.

By November, they were still 600 leagues from Acapulco. Here they sighted the area, where numerous mountaintop areas. Burning upside down, the many rocks, and the sight of the land. Finally, since their square plans came from the area of California between Monterey and Cape Mendocino. Their terms over this, when the latitudes was less than the good wind over to change). A El Tesoro was the first port of call, but the ship's boat could not land because of the heavy surf. Finally, the ship was reached.

On Dec. 2, they anchored near the shore of San Jose. Along the coast, they saw many whales, large fish and seals but none like prizes had been driven from California. They were unable to land the supplies they needed due need to almost taken the frozen water in California.

At the pueblo of San Jose, some Indians found that there were friends as the collectors and managed as some stranded. While they were the priests, they visited missions founded by Junipero Serra. Other sign of the locals they left orphaned. Many huddled where a plaque followed by famine remembrance. And they kept debating their departure, assuming when to visit the natural islands by confession.

On Dec. 7, they finally reached Monterey and were taken to the Old California Hotel. Dec. 25, when they sighted the port of Bacolod. Although they expected to reach Acapulco in two or three days, since it was not 100 leagues away, a calm detained us that they began to enjoy more the excellent food. In the town is, they saw huge turtles, which the men caught and ate. The rest ate full of small native swimming in the waters.

Finally on Christmas Day they dropped anchor in Acapulco.

Fr. Antonio P. Castillo, S.J., "The Jesuit Martyrs of New Peru, S.J., 1768-1770")

DeGeneration

Hariraya Jimenez

I AM, as a decrepit young person, the I'm starting to lose touch in my own generation.

It's not that I think everyone in Gen Y is destined to work in dead-end jobs, bleed of today's youth are wasting away into free, end-up more from drugs and alcohol. They don't party till dawn on school nights. Many want in school. The only things that need improvement are—not terminus and technological—in what happens around us.

Whenever I run into the Filipino scholarone what's happening in the world, he will be stumped. But if you ask him what is the latest in pop culture, he can give you all the details, including today's date and the like.

The biggest problem with our generation is that we've stopped forming our own opinions. I'm starting to notice this youth of the 1960s, who made good use of their freedom of speech. This was an era when, as he academic was to be a writer in order to be heard.

Though I'm not, never was and have never become an activist, I admire those colleagues to march in the streets for what they believed in and to do something about the issues that involved of sitting someone else to do it. But these days, activism are branded off as drug addicts, lads crying for attention, people who are bored and need to find another fun thing to do.

Recently read the newspapers where an article report on current events. How often, we ignore the front page and go straight to the entertainment section. There are the people who will be making in editors, paying rents, voting and even running for positions in government. As an example, I'm not always sure to have lost our insight and ambition, to what can we possibly contribute to our country when it's our turn to lead?

Perhaps we have been brainwashed. We would very well be the spoiled brats of Philippine history. We have unlimited exposure to the world, and we have the power to express our interest with ease, ownership and boundary. All these years we have experienced are crackdowns on protest rights, street rampage leading to police issues and street-shooting experiences.

I'm not saying that these things don't affect people. But we just don't care unless something directly affects us. We simply want to be left alone to do what we please. Because of this many complacent, about 70 percent of Filipinos live below the poverty line. People who lack competence are fighting for national leadership. And if we don't do it back and wait until we graduate from college, and then leave this place so make our country better?

I know that not every member of Gen Y feels this way. There are still some who believe we can make a difference, that the greater good will still prevail and that leaders still listen. Others merely, they're succumbing to cynicism and anger. And an issue of we lead for more measured hands, the answers is found in our own backyard.

But can anyone blame us? Look at the situation. Investors are running to more away, leaving our economy hopelessly indebted. Our politics has lost its dignity and turned into a point of muddling and cannot recognizing. There are rises in job opportunities, and one of the three must be sacrificed to give way to firefighters or policemen with a false reward.

Everyone in our generation dreams of being rich, successful and happy. But the dream requires us to leap out of a place and become responsible. In short, we think that being a Filipino is a liability because this issues does nothing to help the youth.

A few days ago, when I was looking at hopeless things out attention, I found hope in an anonymous Arabic poem. If this were made required reading by all Philippine leaders, perhaps they would look and also doing what they're supposed to do. And

A million hearts entwined are that passed
Can anyone believe towards the Truth,
Old republicans a mirror their hearts,
The way will complicates only in the lies.
This poem is for the leaders who are right to change because they fear that their votes or money years, but the young are eager to gone to be right direction because their hands are more open and unprecedentable. If you do things right, eventually you look in the country will be rewarded.

Most of us in Gen Y cannot even need the same presidential elections. We're not going to sing that we're not opinion and in government or the government. Are our leaders going to spend those on poor unwedding their thumbs or other areas of power or are they going to do what they're supposed to do: lead our country toward progress?

Meanwhile, a leader or if our leaders are becoming more blind that we have been a threat to our country. How many have no trust for social involvement. They haven't noticed that more than half of the members of our government are pro-America and have lost hope in the future of this country and almost always fight other politicians.

Our leaders think that only people who are 18 and above should be concerned with how their political choices depend on their votes. Well, they're wrong. The opinions of even minors, even if these opinions won't necessarily be expressed through the ballot on election day. The pre-democratic of public officials says that they should promote the well-being of Filipino people and contribute to the Constitution about say that there's no age minimum to be a citizen of this country.

To all the politicians who are spending millions to put our campaign posters not systematically. There's still time. Prove that your predecessors have gone pakialamo a bad name. You do not have to follow suit. If you have integrity, dignity and intelligence, then you should help restore our faith in our country. If you lead honestly and diligently, we might go back to doing our country like the pure paraisong who taught us how to do it.

Hariraya Jimenez, 19, is a 2nd year high school student at the Hongkong School.

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The real power crisis

LETTERS

We are deeply concerned with the real motive behind the stunted display of both the government and the private sector of a looming power crisis, for they saying the alarm now to enjoin us to seriously scatter the tension people have suffered for some time now, because in several days, both the government and big businesses have crafted the same harmonious, swift to higher rates, to make the Philippine power industry attractive to investors and relieve some of the so-called power crisis.

Even in their years of a power crisis and propose higher power rates, the cost of electricity in the country remains among the highest in the world. This is because consumers continue to be charged for the onerous, purchased power adjustment (PPA), which is plainly—like the Member of any house since—there can no already unbundled, is hidden under the generation charge.

That is the real crisis that the power users have...the high cost of electricity and the resulting threat to make electricity no longer affordable to some consumers, especially the poor households.

The crisis in the power industry remains unsolved because we have no incumbent president with no political will to address the root cause of the problem—the onerous IPP contracts. These contracts have take-or-pay provision, by virtue of which NPC are paid the full amount of contracted energy even if they only produce half or, in some cases, nothing at all. These onerous contracts have resulted in the PPA charges ranked into our power bills.

To avoid giving us to the public demand to abolish the PPA, President Macapagal-Arroyo's palliative solution in May 2002 was to impose a P0.40 cap on Napocor's PPA. This unfortunately resulted in a significant reduction in electricity rates particularly to the Meralco area where the PPA is reportedly at 1.00 percent of the basic charge. But only three to four months since the imposition of PPA suspension in July 2002, payment for unused electricity reached 80 to 90 percent of our basic charge. In other news papers, we had 210 to 80 percent of the basic charge.

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—MARIE BELA CRUZ
LEIZEN EDWARD SAN JUAN,
ISEVEL RAMOS,
JOY BERNARDINO,
Interdisciplinary Debt Coalition, 11 Maginhawa St., Central Diliman, Quezon City

Teacher Eddie Gil

If I could only wear roses, I'd give Eddie Gil all my unused roses because of his humor to a dismal election campaign season. He is the epitome of what our people have become.

After President Macapagal-Arroyo, I'd vote for Gil for he is honest enough to admit his real intentions: promotion and buppenyig.

Gil is just being himself and for this I admire him a little more than the others undersidiwalkers.

Gil either makes me fun, making me laugh and realizing am happy. I can honestly give him credit for that.

What I find like joking among the other time candidates is seriously lie. his whole lives are at times very reflected because he is honest enough to show this he enjoys it impacts—unclean.

Gil...has made a great contribution to our society, in showing people how to take this candidates' promises seriously. We should not to accept them just as we should accept lies for their promises are as empty as lie.

Too bad Gil did not join the senatorial ordeals for he could have given Drilon a run for his money.

Gil is a bona-a-vera for he personifies what a true artist is all about, and we cannot find his talking and re-enter. But unlike other artists, he at least does not suffer from split personality. I have no doubt that should he appear in a movie, he'd be simply himself—what value can of it. Some artists we have who can no longer separate their real roles from their real personalities.

Gil may not win the presidency of the republic, but the Famas Awards owes him. That's the second time I hope to give to Eddie Gil.

—ARSENIO L. MINAFE,
Bonifacio Drive, 1702-394
Binondo, Manila
Quezon City

Not our countrymen

I WOULD like to react to the Youngblood article "Burying Ireland" which was written by Anna Eve L. Sangco (PDI, 4/18/04), in response to an earlier article written by a Filipina based in Europe.

I have no quarrel with our countrymen who made good abroad and who drove to stay abroad because of good opportunities not available here. In fact, I have very close relatives residing abroad.

However, I have a very strong—nay, to the nth—aversion to Filipinos if they call those countrymen who harbor illusions of grandeur or bitterness that are made. About us whom they make derogatory remarks about the millions of our countrymen who remain in the country to live in problems and in their level best to improve conditions, no matter how difficult it seems. Many of these have opportunities to live a better life elsewhere, but they choose to stay because of love of country, had been some this delusion who, after escaping the burden of responsibility, still has the gall to blame those who are in the country.

Sangco speaks for all our countrymen who are here to stay. We are not stupid, we have morals of our own, we are Filipinos! Proud to be. Fierce. Sangco obviously has enough qualifications to read, she read but she obviously is using to lead a good life.

As for the distressed girl who disdainfully denounced the good reputation of Filipinos, let all doors shut her from the Philippines forever. Sangco put a most eloquently for diverse heroes.

—ANNA MARIE ALMEDA,
Ireland
Ireland

Flawed elections

COMMENTARY

By Ricardo A. Ayaviso

SCHOLLED.—One of our proud boasts as a "democratic" nation is that, we have held, except during the martial law years under National Marcos, regular elections. Unlike some of our neighbors in Asia whose media for political change have included extra-legal means like military coups, we have engaged to keep the electoral rhythm going and elections have become part of our life. So, excuse me, why can that we are proud of our political institution, given the way elections have played out over the years?

The classic innocence of elections, Philippine-style, is that they symbolize the clear (i) (green, gun) and gold). When I was growing up, a more classic category characterized elections: funds and have had the ability to win, especially in some constituencies.

We've had countless elections, both under US colonial rule and in post-independence Philippines for more than a hundred years now. Prior to the first national poll for the National Assembly in 1907, there were several local elections. In the Philippines 1,006 elections for provincial governors, for instance, 29 were elected, of whom only five did not belong to the pro-American Nacionalista Party formed in December 1900. The Partido Nacionalista was established in 1900 with independence as its main agenda. Subsequently, the Partido Liberal was organized in 1900 to "establish a republican form of government in a manner to build up the Filipino nationality."

Party formation had become a fact of Philippine political life in the first decade of American rule. Prior to the 2007 National Assembly contest, the dominant leaders of the country split very top governments were about organizing themselves into parties for the ensuing political campaign across the nation.

The Partido Independista, Partido Organizador and the Unionista Union Nacional all have made the cross with their national platforms. The original Federalistas morphed into the Partido Progresista. The proliferation of political groups is quite formidable that we are today is not new. It has deep roots in our political history.

Between 1907 and 1935, there were four (4) elections for the National Assembly, 1907, 1909, 1912, 1916 and 1919. As a result of the 1916 elections, the Philippine Senate was established. Between 1907 and 1935, there were 11 elections for the Philippine Assembly, 1907, 1909, 1912, 1916, 1919, 1922, 1925, 1928, 1931, 1934 and 1935. As a result of the 1935 elections, the Philippine Senate was established. Between 1907 and 1935, there were 11 elections for the Philippine Assembly, 1907, 1909, 1912, 1916, 1919, 1922, 1925, 1928, 1931, 1934 and 1935.

Across the NATION
Assistant Editor Tony Bergonia

Bishop calls for abolition of Pagcor

BAGUIO CITY—Lingayen-Dagupan Archbishop Oscar Cruz has called for the abolition of the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp., saying the arguments against its continued operations have become stronger and clearer.

"Pagcor's social objective is partly compared to the horse race and drains it billions to the country. It distributes us daily amusing among official recipients, as well as to its beneficiaries," Cruz said in statement on Monday.

"It throws financial crumbs to charity but only to deodorize its moral stink. It attempts to justify itself by assuming social religious concerns in by-such-raising sector tax beggars," he added.

On the issue that the Catholic Church benefits from Pagcor, Cruz clarified that the archdiocese had never been a beneficiary of Pagcor and that Manila is its bishop, Jaime Cardinal Sin, no longer accepted donations from the corporation.

"I am 100 percent sure that no one from archdiocese receives anything from Pagcor," he told the Inquirer.

Cruz also clarified that his appeal was not meant to target President Macapagal-Arroyo for the Pagcor mess.

"She can be president for life and I don't care. But Pagcor must be abolished and the government must promote work ethic and honest industry," he said.

He said what he has so far revealed about alleged irregularities in the Pagcor are only 5 percent, "as telling everything would take more than one press briefing."

"If Jose (Malacañang) already knows and that the documents have been turned over to (Ramon) Mitra, He will just wait and see what happens although I'm not sure about what will happen considering how justice seems very drastic in our country," he said.

In his statement, Cruz said the government needed money but "for the government to have more money by officially providing big time gambling for its citizens and visitors alike smacks of stupidity and inhibits bankruptcy of ethics."

"The situation is worse because the government is not known for honesty in handling of public funds, and neither known for integrity in stipulating its expenditures. [Thus], Pagcor as an official gambling corporation further renders the already sagging image of the government, particularly in the matter of the use of public funds," he said.

He said he trusted Pagcor abolished because it does not enrich the nation, and does not generate wealth for the country.

"Pagcor breeds graft and corruption when it comes to millions from otherwise decent and honest private employees and public officials. It funnels the monetary of chance, the vice of greed and avarice," he added. Yolanda Rafeles-Fuentes, *INR*, Ma. Elena Laura Bergonia

Baguio docs make up for equipment lack to save PCSO chair

BAGUIO CITY—Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) Chair Dr. Lorna "Bimmy" Gil-Singson de Leon, who on April 13 suffered severe fetal ruptured aneurysm, had asked her relatives for spleen of pigeon and cow, some media reports have said.

Dr. Leon, 57, who is now recuperating at the Makati Medical Center, would not still ask because she had a traditional way of operation on the aneurysm to save her life, said Dr. Jesus Segura, Dr. Leon's attending doctor at the Baguio General Hospital and Medical Center.

But according to local doctors, Dr. Leon's recovery is considerable considering that most people suffering from ruptured aneurysm either die or stay comatose.

Remarkable

Remarkable is how the BGHMC was able to save Dr. Leon's life despite a lack of equipment for such cases.

Dr. Rolando Soriano, BGHMC chief training officer, said if Dr. Leon's aneurysm was not there near the right age, it would have been a different story.

"Thanks to our human resources program, it has come to a case of right timing, right person," Soriano said.

By its own initiative, the BGHMC has been orientating young doctors and sending them for training to the Philippine General Hospital (PGH) in its effort to stay in par with the level of Metro Manila hospitals.

One of these doctors is the 32-year-old Segura who was trained in neurosurgery at the PGH and who returned to the BGHMC last January.

In about 9:30 a.m. of April 13, Segura had just finished his rounds at BGHMC and was about to go home when he received a call regarding Dr. Leon.

Segura said he was informed that Dr. Leon just had an excessive headache and her doctors did not find anything serious although to the pain worse, she had been complaining of headaches.

Speech

Dr. Leon was speaking before PCSO employees about the agency's operation at the 36-second bus road trainer here when she felt dizzy and collapsed.

It turned out that Dr. Leon had an intracranial aneurysm and a clot or cerebral hemorrhage (blood clot) in her brain.

In the few similar cases that they handled, Segura said they would usually bring the patient to Metro Manila. But because of the severity of Dr. Leon's condition and her status, Segura had no assurance that to operate and let Leon.

He assembled a team composed of neurological doctors headed by Dr. Jesus Segura and resident Armand Rosales.

Because BGHMC has no CT scan machine, they had to refund Dr. Leon to the nearby Baguio Medical Center to scan the damage to her brain.

Method

The principal method to treat intracranial aneurysm is through clipping or the placement of a clip at the neck to cut off the aneurysm and prevent further hemorrhage, Segura said.

But he said the problem was that the BGHMC has no neural clip and he had to borrow one from Dr. Francisco Bautista.

The BGHMC also has no operating or range of microscope (which costs about P4.5 million) for such delicate surgery as clipping and removing the blood clot so Segura and his team had to resort to strictly hands and knees eyesight.

It took them two hours to remove the blood clot and the rest of the day to repair the damage, by noon of April 16, Dr. Leon's condition had stabilized allowing the doctors to authorize her transfer to the Makati Medical Center.

Segura said that under the so-called Glasgow coding in consciousness level (1) being the lowest and (15) the highest, Dr. Leon is now 8. When she was admitted to BGHMC, her coding was 5, he said.

Miracle

But post-operation neurosurgery today positive factors.

"This shows that our program is bearing fruit," he said.

BGHMC's human resources program was started 15 years ago to give the hospital's personnel opportunity to have specialize in different fields of surgery. BGHMC provides their training.

BGHMC doctors are sent to the PGH to train with their top surgeons for several years.

Segura had three years of residency at the BGHMC before he was sent for neurosurgery training in PGH for four years.

"Even if we lack the equipment, at least we have the techniques," Soriano said.

Even former Benos Sen Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson, Dr. Leon's elder brother, congratulated the BGHMC team. "Although the hospital currently lacks the equipment, the doctors were very capable," Singson said in Ilocano.

Bagos said like Dr. Leon's case, aneurysm strikes people in their 40s. The most frequent symptoms include headache, nausea, vomiting, depression, sensitivity to light, neck pain or stiffness, and weakness. Frank Cimatu, *INR*, Ma. Elena Laura Bergonia

Supporter of candidate for mayor slain in Ilocos

BANGA, Ilocos Norte—A known supporter of Board Member Carlito Abadilla Jr. was gunned down on Saturday night to what the police believed was an election-related attack in this town.

Two gunmen shot and killed SPO2 Apolonio Cimong, chief investigator of PNP-Banga, near the town hall only two hours from night duty.

Col. Rolando Rebaca, Ilocos Norte police director, said Cimong had just left the police station at around 9:30 p.m. Saturday when two gunmen flagged him down from another car.

"The suspects could be known to the victim because he was shot in the back while he was probably talking to one of them," Rebaca said.

The victim suffered several gunshot wounds in the head from an M-16 Armalite rifle. The gunmen then took his service pistol when they fled.

Rebaca said the police are looking at several leads at a possible motive in the killing.

Cimong was a known supporter of Abadilla Jr., whose son, Vice Mayor Carlito Abadilla Jr., is running for mayor. Cristina Arandia, *PDI* Interboro Lourd Barrera

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SOUNTEX

Arts fest in UP Baguio

THE UNIVERSITY of the Philippines Baguio Community Arts Guild is starting activities in the 19th Baguio Summer Arts Festival that is ongoing from April 27 to May 1.

A theater production, "Mianna Ma, Lil Brown Bottles," written by Orly Mallada, will be performed by the Cordillera Music Theatre and Research Center on April 30 and May 1 at the Baguio Cathedral Auditorium.

Another theater play "Anamnesia ng Kuripot" by Mahen Cayanan Jacob, was released by the Baguio Kalinangan Foundation Inc. in coordination with the Cultural Center of the Philippines.

The festival seeks to promote the tradition of promoting the culture and arts of the region.

PNOC to pursue geothermal drilling dormant for 24 yrs

By Rona G. Arzaga-Ordoñez
PNA Visayas Bureau

DUMAGUETE CITY—Due to the growing demand for electricity, the Philippine National Oil Co.-Energy Development Corp. (PNOC-EDC) has decided to revive its geothermal exploration project in Tanon Strait, Negros Oriental, that has been dormant for 24 years.

Wilfredo Alguiero, station manager of PNOC-EDC's Southern Negros Geothermal Production Field, said the PNOC has yet ready some P50 million for drilling and other related activities in this field, Barangay Maguyang Dauin, a town 34 km south of here.

The project will begin next year, he said.

The PNOC conducted drilling activities in two sites in Dauin in 1980 and found a "promising prospect" in Bulgar. But the then-operator of the area as a geothermal site was temporarily set aside because of the presence of sulfur in the well, Alguiero said.

The scientists hired by PNOC-EDC want, however, confident that the sulfur was only found in the shallower portions of the well which, he said, could be neutralized by drilling deeper.

With the availability of modern technology, the problem could now be solved, Alguiero added.

Alguiero said reports have estimated that some 40 megawatts (MW) of geothermal energy could be harnessed in Bulgar. The project will be conducted once the drilling continues, he said.

PNOC-EDC will only geothermal steam development and production activities in the area if it can produce at least 20 MW of geothermal power in order that the operation can be viable, he said.

PNOC-EDC, he added, had long wanted to continue its exploration project in Dauin but this did not materialize due to fund problems. However, upon the extended 9 percent increase of demand for electricity next year in the Visayas alone, as projected by the National Power Corp., the PNOC-EDC was all the more encouraged to explore geothermal energy sources, again.

In the event that more drillings are needed, Alguiero said the PNOC-EDC would never pursue. Along the line, the Department of Energy is now working out on the undertaking, he said.

LIFELINE
Children carrying clothes tuffle down for their ration of food for the day in an evacuation center in Pikit, North Cotabato. Photo was taken in May last year.

Traders find population not on poll agenda

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PNA Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—Businessmen are interesting the lack of grasp of candidates on population management especially at the electoral level.

When asked their program or stand on population issues, most candidates invited to a recent Iloilo Coast Inter offered vague responses or answered out of the topic.

"They give very general statements that were non-committal," said Atty. Regie Boto, chair of the committee on population, corporate social responsibility and governance of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Inc. (PCCI).

In the forum dubbed "Business and Politics Convergence in Population and Development" held last Thursday night candidates running for various posts in the province and city of Iloilo were given 15 minutes each to discuss their platforms and views on local population affairs, economy and regional development and the role of government and the private sector in population management.

The candidates who spoke included candidates for congressman of Iloilo City, councilor Raul Gonzalez Jr., Iloilo Rumoro Grande and former Rep. Suhid Lopez Vito. Also present were re-electionist Iloilo Gov. Niel Tupas Sr. and Iloilo City mayoral candidates re-electionist Mayor Jerry Treñas, Vice Mayor Victor Pantal and city councilor Rita Ruscoe-Jardeleza.

Tupas said population growth has aggravated poverty especially in the coastal villages since he came to office three years ago. "I have seen how fast population growth has put severe pressure on resources and also to provide basic services to our people."

Other candidates described the situation as "a problem that should be met" (Gonzalez) because "economic growth is being lost to population growth" (Lopez Vito).

But few seemed to see policies that they plan to implement when they are elected.

Gonzalez said the problem is a "multi-faceted situation" that could be addressed with the "convergence of motivation of concern."

Lopez-Vito admitted that he was not an expert on the issue and said he will seek the advice of experts and follow the policies of the national government.

Retired diplomat Pantal, the vice mayor candidate, said he was a pro-life advocate and wants to review the city's population management program "because they are promoting a lot of artificial methods."

Mindoro folk blame extreme heat on coal manufacturing

CALAPAN CITY—Residents here, the southernmost part of Tropical Mindoro, has been experiencing extreme heat because of charcoal manufacturing in the last five years, said Dexter Cruzada, a government employee and environmental activist in Isulan.

About 10 barangays, including the poblacion, out of the 15 barangays are affected, he said.

Even the unmolested and mangrove trees were also severely affected, Cruzada also said.

While the Sangguniang Bayan of Bulakan has passed a resolution to stop getting permits for commercial charcoal manufacturing, this has not been strictly implemented.

Residents said that burned like dishes and trees are being search is making charcoal.

"There are still people transporting charcoal," he said.

At least can be about 800 sacks of charcoals and the happens twice a week.

A sack of charcoal is bought at P40 from the producers and the trader sells it for P100 to 200 in Batangas and other places.

In an interview with the Inquirer, Pablo Santos, Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office, Bansa Mamaguyan Service chief, said an order was already issued to stop the issuance of permits to transport charcoal into or from town ages.

He also has also intensified the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office in Bansa to coordinate with the mayor to address complaints on the issue has been blamed on heat on banking.

The mayor, Santos claimed, is the implementation of the local government unit (LGU) in 1999 of common residents on forest management of watershed areas.

"There should be a memorandum of agreement between the DENR and the LGU," he said. But they still have to meet after the debates.

The local Church has also expressed concerns on the issue of charcoal making and recommended its regulation.

To dissuade residents from pursuing this economic activity, the local government has launched a small-scale livelihood projects that, according to Bulakan residents, there is really no political will to provide financial assistance to them.

Santos said dismissive caused by the absence of the Sangguniang Bayan can also be the reason charcoal making continues without regulations.

He agrees that some Mangyans are involved. Municipal Councilor Lito Bautista, who also provincial officer knowledgeable on said charcoal making is a source of livelihood among the Mangyans but they only do it on a small-scale and not for commercial purposes. Bautista is also, PES Bulakan Liaison Person.

Eagle bred in captivity released to home in wild

BACK into the wild goes the country's first brood in captivity eagle, a compañero effort to save whatever remains of the country's dwindling eagle population.

BANAY CITY—Three days after "Kabayan," the eagle bred in captivity, voluntarily flew out of his 20-foot steel cage, he was monitored some 5000 meters northeast of his release site to avoid the reservation area of the Philippine National Oil Company on Mt. Apo on Friday.

"Kabayan," the first captive-bred eagle released to the wild, was tracked down through a satellite telemetry, a small backpack radio transmitter that was attached to the bird.

Perla Cruz-Jaron, of the Philippine Eagle Foundation (PEF) has been monitoring the one-year and five months male eagle (Pithecophaga jefferyi) since its release on Thursday, Earth Day.

Acquainting

The PEF said that "Kabayan" is continuously acquainting himself with his new environment. PEF biologists are expected to signal from "Kabayan" indicating that he was within an kilometer from the monitoring team.

He was seen soaring on different trees and stayed there until Friday.

The eagle's release was the first in Asia.

This will serve as input to the doubling of a full reintroduction program for engineered eagle population in the wild," the PEF said in a statement.

For the PEF, Kabayan's release was the gift of years of efforts to boost the dwindling eagle population in the wild.

Kabayan, an eagle bred and hatched in captivity, was the first of such species to be put back in to the wild, where only about 800 pairs of eagles are said to remain.

Haran

PEF Executive Director Dennis Salvador said they decided to hold the release at the PNOC's reservation as the human threat had been reported sightings of Philippine eagles there.

"The nest found on our field research is home to Philippine Eagle. There were reported sightings of it in this area," Salvador told the locators.

Biologists, researchers and volunteers will be staying inside the PNOC-EDC reservation area to monitor Kabayan's activities and provide for the food they need for. Jennifer A.B. Bacilla, PIA Mindanao Bureau

Ecija mayor says raid on his house by cops 'harassment'

CABANATUAN CITY—Mayor Cesar Ramos of Ecija town harassed the raid by 50 policemen to their house and the house of his brother and another resident of his town, saying it was "harassment."

The raid, conducted at 6 a.m. on Saturday last week, was supported by search warrant to recover an alleged cache of illegal guns. But only the firearms of Ramos's police escorts were found and seized by the raiding team.

Ramos said the raiding team came from the regional criminal investigation and detection field and the Regional Mobile Group based in Camp Olivas, Pampanga.

Senior Insp. George Santiago, Ecija police chief, said the raid was not coordinated with him or provincial police officials.

Santiago said the guns seized from Ramos's police escorts' escorts were covered with proper permits.

In Camp Olivas, Senior Supt. Joel Rosenthal, CIDG regional chief, said Ramos's escorts' escorts' firearms became the search in his house was carried out with a court-issued warrant and in an orderly manner.

"I talked to the mayor and he said he had no complaint about our search or how CIDG agents conducted it," Rosenthal told the Inquirer.

According to him, the police checked the houses to confirm report that the mayor harbored members of the Red Vigilante Group, a hit squad of former Dear People's Army rebels. They reportedly sleep at the officials' houses.

The CIDG team, he said, found no suspected RVG members in the house but recovered an Intratec M-10 machine rifle and a 9 mm gun purportedly belonging to the security men of Ramos.

But Ramos said the search warrant, issued by a Gumaba, Nueva Ecija court, was "general search warrant" and did not specify the place or places in his house or residence searched.

He said the guns seized from his police escorts were exempted from the firearms ban of the Commission on Elections.

Also raided were the houses of Ramos's brother, Rodolfo, president of the Association of Barangay Captains of Ilocos, and Jessie Salvador, a candidate for councilor.

Salvador, who is running for reelection under the Bagong Lakas ng Nueva Ecija (Bolen), complained that his political opponents gave the police wrong information about the supposed unlicensed guns that he was keeping. Assistant Regional Prosecutor Ernesto Ordaez, PNP Colonel Lazaro Bool

ENTERTAINMENT

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BATTLE OF EX-PALS MIGHT LEAD TO COURT

'I am not a bum,' says Osang's hubby

ROCES. Osang reads her lines wrong

By Nini Valera and Marinel R. Cruz

THIS is what Tito Molina, husband of actress Rosanna Roces, stressed when he broke his silence yesterday regarding the controversy involving his wife and dancer/singer Dr. Vicki Belo that dragged his name into the limelight.

"Nagkataon na lang siya ako sa skinny pa ako sa beauty parlor," Molina quipped jokingly.

He said Rosanna have put acquired a piece of property in Cebu Island, that they would plant with honeybee stories. He pause was clarified when former friends Rosanna and Belo seemed broke ing on national television a week ago about Flawless Skin Center, which Osang used to endorse. The actress also named 18 persons of the business, which she subsequently told to the other owners when the issue broke out.

Molina says one of the issues Osang only learned that he be given a job, but according to the owners, they were not happy with her performance.

Never employed

"That's true. I was never their employee," Molina said because entertainment yesterday. "I was there to look after my wife's interests."

Molina, an executive of the Aklan Development Bank for 12 years, said that when Flawless was being framed by Belo and her partners, one of whom is Tony Santos, Osang asked him to supervise her since she had little knowledge about putting up a business.

"So we all pitched in to contribute the centers," Molina said.

To help out during the fledgling stage, Molina agreed to oversee the Megamall branch of the center.

"That was the time I went there almost everyday," he said. "Mga mga personnel ko nag-away. Ako ako na kinakiusap personally," Osang said. "Like general mga pang patient ko for sale after I had botcket augmentation. She did not even ask for my permission. Ang sabi niya, hindi naman daw alam ng tao na ako iyon. If kaya alam ko na ako iyon."

HELMA. None of employees of Flawless Skin Center

No comment

Yesterday word was out that Belo was suing Osang. The actress-ex-husband that she doesn't lawyer had complained to DTI, which sues like actress' sensitivity about tax talk does, "Sue Tali."

Inquirer Entertainment called up Belo for comment, but she said she would no longer issue any statement after her interview with "The Buzz" hosts Boy Abunda and Kris Aquino was aired last Sunday.

When asked to confirm reports that she would file charges against Osang, Belo said she is "not sure."

Mikhel Mc Domingo, Flawless Center general manager, claimed the skin center owners received any complaints from patients.

Mc. Domingo has been a Flawless Center employee since July 2002. The first Flawless Center is Old Megamall in Mandaluyong City, which built in 2001, Mc. Domingo said.

Facial treatments

"The products we sell are not harmful," Mc. Domingo said. "In fact, you can even buy products like them anywhere."

She added that 90 percent of the patients who go to Flawless Skin Centers are interested mainly on facial treatments.

"Mostly for rejuvenating ng facial treatments," Mc. Domingo stressed.

She said users enjoyed and like pending are performed by doctors.

"Because of Osang's statements, nabahala na ang mga patients namin," she said.

Mc. Domingo refused to answer any of Tito Molina's statements. She said Ruby Corbett, one of the owners of Flawless, is expected to arrive in Manila from New York City today.

Co-stars affected by Jericho-Cindy LQs

DOLLY WOOD
Daily Ann Correspondent

A MAGISTER who used to work for a well-known baron of entertainment for their "sunny rituals" disclosed that her former boss has unusually haunted most of the staff. There was even a time when one lady employee could not bear it anymore as she ran out of the establishment crying and didn't bother to get her stuff. I wonder if the star-struck of the said "baron" have any inkling that the very person they entrust with their body for "shaping and maintenance" might end up abusing it. For them, "an ounce of prevention is worth more than a pound of cure" is not just another cliché.

***

One of ABS-CBN's young stars lamented that he and his co-stars could no longer visit the two Antonios Boracles and Cindy Barbero try to hide their romance. They are wary to come out in the open to protect Aiko's love team with Kristine Hermosa, which has a huge following. The actor says, "When we have taping with Aiko, the whole cast is affected when Cindy and he have an LQ because wala tayo sa mood sa set. We all have to adjust pag may tantrum na sya. Mga Echo-mom, Echo-girl, Poor Kristine, who has always to remain silent about the whole thing. Siguro, pag napi-pressure na ang contract ni Aiko sa ABS after 2 years, siya pa lang ang aasawa ni Cindy na hindi nanood sa taping eh nag-break."

As I always say, love scenes are usually just love scenes!

***

I'm glad that the story rumor linking KC Concepcion to Rico Blanco (of Rivermaya) has been confined out. Here can any add-more relationship. Basta be-tween them when KC is listed in Days? The one who is really involved with a member of Rivermaya is Dennis Seno. She told me she is now happy with the band's drummer, Mare Enriquez.

Reader's Corner

Hi Ms. Dolly,

I would just like to add some info regarding ABS-CBN's under-paid employees. Yes, they are paid very well but they are also very hard-working. Most of them have to work overtime and sometimes even on holidays. Some of them have to work on weekends and even on their days off. Some of them have to go to the provinces for shoots and stay there for days. Some of them have to work on location and stay there for days. Some of them have to work on location and stay there for days. Some of them have to work on location

Mangyan orphan top high school graduate

By [illegible]

while. He resigned himself to a life of planting corn, but after witnessing how a drought wiped out a season's crop, he decided to enter his high school.

Last March, 17 year-old Banjo topped the graduating class in Tagbilaran School, which has won several awards for its alternative system. The 137 high school graduates came from six of the seven Mangyan tribes on Mindoro island.

Aside from the title "valedictorian," Banjo received three other awards—Best in Academics, Best in Leadership and the Tagbaan award for overall achievement, which probably in the past three years had won.

"Compared to other Mangyans in school, he has proven to be exceptionally intelligent," said Sr. Lilia Prendoza, a member of the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception (MIC), his elementary school supervisor and, to this day, his devoted guardian.

Orphan

All of Banjo's six brothers and sisters died in infancy. He was the 30th child.

"Mahigo ang dahon sa ugatod sa amin sa bundok, kung sino na lahat (The doctor and hospital are hard to reach from our place in the mountains, a full day's walk)," Banjo said.

In March 1991, his mother died giving birth to what would have been her 12th child, but it was stillborn. After three months, his father died of malaria.

Following every death, the family would move to another house to leave behind what they believed were "bad spirits." After his mother's death, Banjo was placed in the care of his father's sister, Lauren Illas, who married Aeto-Mangkukan four years later.

At a child, Banjo was called Inga Illas and treated like a member of the Mangkukan family.

When he started schooling at five years old, he carried the same Batok Mangkukan. He most vivid memory of that year in Grade 1 was being sent out of the classroom because he didn't speak Filipino. After a month, taught him the language, but not-demic capabilities quickly unfurled. His teachers found him a scholarship.

"They told me to go to school in the town proper," Banjo recalled. In 1993, at 6 years old, he was enrolled in the Banjo Elementary School. He stayed with Mangkukan's father Ballon.

The following year, he was transferred along with several others to the Sta. Cruz Central School, where the missionary sisters administered the Mangyan people's scholarship program.

In Grade 4, Batok's problems started. His classmates made fun of his name and he soon to be affected by this that his academic performance suffered. The MIC left the program in 1996 to a Japanese non-government organization called 21st Century Association.

Batok finished elementary in fifth grade, nothing double time to make up for his poor standing the previous school year. By this time, he had been placed in the stewardship of a Japanese woman, Hiroyuki Kawashima, who took great pride in the boy's being at the top of his class.

Finishing sixth grade, Batok got a grade of 97 percent in the National Entrance Admission Test for high school. He was 11.

Name change

Almost a teenager, Batok experienced more problems with his name. Even out-of-school youths in the community took to calling him "Batok" in a way that he described as "teasing." He dreaded going back to school.

But Diane Prendoza, who had become like a mother to Batok, had found him another scholarship, this time via a program of the Immaculate Conception Academy Mission Association in the Tagbaan School.

But a while it seemed that Batok was fine, although he had to stay with yet another set of guardians, since his host for studying was being further sustained in Tagalan, known for a holistic and functional curriculum rooted in culture and values. But in second-year high, the teasing became too much. He stopped going to school, stayed with Prendoza in Sta. Cruz, and planned now.

He eventually reconsidered, but to make things a little easier on him, the sisters thought he'd be by real name: Ishrahn Tejada or help him change his name. "Banjo Quirino" was Batok's choice.

"I enjoy studying," said Banjo. His inspiration is the country's first Mangyan lawyer, Justice Evangelista, whose success story he read about in the lessons. Evangelista graduated from the Manuel L. Quezon University College of Law with academic and leadership awards.

"My dream is to help my fellow Mangyans, particularly in their land problems," Banjo said. He has been exposed to many cases of Mangyan land being grabbed. Prendoza's house was burned down by illegal loggers during the boy's stay with them. He said he was "deeply troubled."

Tomas, he latched on to most of his sophomore class, and the year after that, and again this year.

Banjo wants to go to college, but Prendoza has to find yet another sponsor for him. He knows many now and will seek passing days.

"School will soon reopen, but I haven't found anyone," she said. "I have spoken to some people, but I haven't received a single pledge." Those who wish to help Banjo may contact Prendoza at the convent in Sta. Cruz, Marinduque, or by calling (09181) 087-2020.

BANJO Quirino, who used to be called Batok Mangkukan, graduates as the valedictorian of his high school class at the Tagbaan School in Naujan, Oriental Mindoro.

Osmeñas mark centenary in public service this year

By [illegible]

1934.

Much of that political skill has been passed on in the three generations of Osmeña descendants who continue to remain in power in Cebu and world influence, not just in the region but also in much of the Philippine operating world.

Of the other families that have dominated local politics in the rest of Cebu province, the Alcoas family controls southern Cebu, the Durano and Martinez families the north of the province, and the Cortes, Mandaue City.

Cebu

This year marks the centenary in public service of the Osmeñas, the eldest and youngest of Cebu's political clans.

The family's political dominance started in 1906 when the patriarch, Sergio Osmeña Sr., won the Cebu governorship, the first of many elective positions that he successfully held.

Sergio Sr. was a lawyer and newspaper editor before moving himself in local politics, starting out as a councilor. While governor of Cebu, he ran for election in the first Philippine Assembly of 1907 and was elected speaker of that body. Only 29 at the time, Osmeña Sr. was already the highest-ranking Filipino official.

He and another provincial politician, Manuel Quezon of Tayabas, set up the Nacionalista Party as a foil to the Partido Federal, a coalition of Manila-based politicians. The two would engage in a rivalry for political dominance over time.

Osmeña Sr. was elected senator and remained so until 1922. He was Senate president pro tempore for two consecutive terms under the Philippine Commonwealth. He served as president from 1944 to 1946.

The Osmeñas were one of the oldest families that the distinct Bonifacio Monroy went after in 1972. The family was forced into political exile during martial law but was firmly back in power after the democratic restoration in 1986.

Today, the third- and fourth-generation members of the Osmeña clan remain influential players in both national and local politics, though they're not always on good terms with one another.

Four are running for office in May: John Henry, known as "Sonny," is seeking reelection to the Senate under the administration slate; John Gregory "Sonjo" John," Sonny's son and the incumbent vice governor, is running for governor; also with the K-4, Tomas is seeking reelection as mayor of Cebu City; Sergio "Serge" Osmeña, a man based in northern Cebu, is also running for governor against his nephew John John.

Emilio, the younger brother of Sonny and former governor of Cebu, Isidro Perrelos, one of three political clans operating world.

Sergio III and Tomas are the sons of the late Sergio Jr., or "Serging," the fifth son of Sergio Sr., who was successively mayor, congressman and governor. Serging came close to following his father to the presidency in 1980 but lost to Marcos.

Sergio III is a senator who has a mandate up to 2007.

Tomas will again face his nemesis in the city, former city mayor Alvin Garcia, whom he defeated in 2001.

Garcia belongs to another influential political clan in Cebu, Sto. Niño, Pablo Garcia, has been a three-term governor of Cebu province, a three-time congressman, has given up public office but is fighting his eldest daughter, Gwendolyn, in the race for governor.

Other Osmeñas have run for public office in previous elections. Former Cebu City Vice Mayor Nenita Osmeña did unsuccessfully in 2001. Her brother, Rogelio, lost his reelection bid for city council on that same year.

The Alvarezes are a large and leading clan that has controlled the fishing industry in Cebu's southeast since the 1950s and has monopolized public office there since the 1970s.

Their business interests have expanded to include retail, banking, public transport and tourist facilities.

The clan has a firm grip on its bailiwick in the second congressional district, but family members are known to fight among themselves for control of municipal and provincial seats.

In the May elections, eight Alvarezes are running for public office. In the family's Oslob hometown, diplomat Alvina, the former vice governor, is running against his nephew, incumbent Oslob Mayor Jerry Alvarez. Another mayor, Regino, the brother of Apolonia, is running for reelection. Jennifer, the wife of Apolonia, is running for municipal councilor.

In Santander town, John Cyd is running for mayor. His father Grimaldo, the former congressman of the second district, is running for mayor of Santander with his son, James Alvarez, as running mate. Geraldin Minor Dee, Grimaldo's sister, is running for municipal councilor of Santander.

Northeastern Cebu is the political fiefdom of the Durano clan, which has held power in the town of Danao for more than 50 years, beginning in 1949 when patriarch Raimundo Durano Sr. was elected congressman of the first district. Except for a brief period after the 1986 EDSA revolution, the family has continued to hold on to the congressional seat as they have the monopoly of the chair in the town of Danao City.

The city is ruled by the manufacturer of the patriarch, Raimundo Jaime, became "no-man's-land" during elections from the 1990s onward because of the Duranos' unchecked expansion of interests. So, who can stand in the way of reinforcing his family's political and economic power through a private army.

Durano is managed to establish dominance over the area as a guerrilla officer during World War II. But the family's political influence apparently goes further back to the end of Spanish rule, to the late 1890s, Durano's father Demetrio became a just as pat Demetrio of the general Carl Ramos.

Like his father, Durano Jr. was elected after engaging in local politics, becoming councilor in the 1950s. He first ran for the first district congressional seat in 1941 and was defeated. He ran again in 1949 and won. Through out his life, Durano Jr. was involved in many political disputes, initially with the Cortes in the municipality of Danao. The municipal rivals of the Osmeñas, that would help the clan in securing a wider influence over provincial politics.

The tightly knit clan distinguished and broke up into competing factions after Durano Jr. died sometime in the 1980s, but it remains a political force to reckon with in the region.

Durano family members are contesting most of the elective positions in the north in May. Like the Alvarezes, clan members are usually running against one another.

Rep. Ace Durano is running against Rosemarie Durano Diaz, his first cousin, for the fifth district congressional seat.

Three Duranos—brothers Jesse and Raimundo II and their nephew Cesar—are fighting it out for the mayoral seat in Danao.

Tomas Jr., the brother of Jesse and Raimundo II, is running against his nephew, Tomas V, the son of Jesse, for vice mayor. There are also two Duranos running for councilor: cousins Alicia and Thomas Mark.

In Sogod town, Thadeo, another brother of Raimundo and Jesse, is running for mayor while his daughter Lisa Marie Durano Quintahan is running for vice mayor.

Another influential political clan in the north is the Martinez family, which controls the town of Bogo.

Agriculture Undersecretary Celestino Martinez, a former three-term representative of the fourth district, is running for governor while incumbent Rep. Gerard Ace Martinez, is seeking reelection. Their son, Celestino "Tinting" Jr., is seeking reelection as Bogo mayor.

The Duranos are the political workhorse of Manuel Roxas, Cebu's industrial hub and gateway to Mactan Island. The incumbent mayor, Thadeo, took over in 2001 from his father, Alfredo, who had been in politics for decades and was the city's mayor for three terms. Thadeo is seeking reelection.

Rep. Pedro Roxas is running for the sixth district congressional seat. Another member of the clan, Alfie, is running for councilor of Consolacion town.

Negros Oriental

In Negros Oriental, the dominant political power holders are the Macias, Arnaiz, Teves and Marcha families.

Reelectionist Rep. Jacinto Paras began his political career as an appointive officer in Nanga (Cebu) mayor of Cadiz and again in 1986. In 1988, his brother Antonio won the congressional seat for the first district and served for three terms until 1998. Jacinto then took over the district and is now seeking a third term.

Another brother, Joselito, was elected councilor of Cadiz again in 1998 and went on to a provincial board seat in 2001. He is now running for vice mayor of Cadiz again.

The Arnaiz scions Pam Pamela town, Gov. George Arnaiz, who is running for a third term, is his brother of Apolonio Jr., the mayor of Pamplona, who is also running for reelection.

Their father Apolonio Sr., the town's former mayor, is currently serving as a provincial board member representing the Arnaiz's tribal of Barangay Captain. Apolonio Jr.'s son, Jerahm, is councilor of Pamplona, representing the Sangguniang Kabataan.

Jesulabel town is the domain of the Rosedal, Reynaldo Sumalo Jr., who served as OIC mayor in 1986, was elected to the position in 1988 and served for three terms until 1998. He took a three-year break, fielding his son, Reynaldo Sumalo III, a former 04 chair and town councilor, in the mayoral race. Sumalo Jr. is again making a run for the position this year.

During his stint as mayor, Sumalo Jr. appointed his father as secretary to the mayor. Sumalo Jr. then initiated a successful recall petition against this Mayor Jovencio Jaureo.

In the special elections of 2000, Sumalo Jr. was elected and became his son's vice mayor. In 2001, Sumalo Jr. ran for Congress against Jacinto Paras, while his wife Wilhelmina Cordero-Sumalo ran for mayor. They both lost.

Rep. Herminio Teves is seeking a second term in the third district that he took over from his son, Margarito, who was congressman for three straight terms from 1988 to 1998. The elder Teves was OIC governor of Negros Oriental from 1986 until 1988. He was also congressman from 1966 until 1972.

Rep. Emilio Macias II is running for a third term in the second district. His son Dwain is seeking a second term as provincial board member.

Before his congressional stint, Macias served for three terms, also terms as governor from 1980 until 1986. He was a member of the 1971 Constitutional Convention and was later elected vice governor from 1977 until 1980 when he became a Batasang Pambansa member. Macias is a son of Lumbres Macias, who represented Negros Oriental's second district from 1954 until 1972.

In Cauayan City, Jose Cardenas served as OIC mayor in 1986 and was subsequently elected in the position in 1988. He served as mayor for three terms until 1998, after which he ran and won as vice mayor, serving for one term until 2004.

His sister Janice was also elected councilor in 1998. In April 2001, Jose, who was running for mayor, and Janice, who was running for reelection, were killed in an ambush just before the elections. Jose's wife Juliet ran in his stead and won. She is now seeking reelection, running against...among other candidates, for lodged Cardenas, her husband's brother.

In La Libertad, Lawrence Limbadelming was elected mayor in 1998. He won a second term in 2001. Instead of running for a third and last term this year, he is fielding his wife, Josie by Limbadelming, whose unopposed.

Dindo town is ruled by the Jandoles and another family of Mayor Valerie Yap and Vice Mayor Rosa Yap Ibañez, whose husband was an ex-mayor. Both are running for reelection.

In Amlan town, running unopposed for mayor are the mayor Jandoles, Mayor Ambrosio Bhagwan Jandoles Jr. is Lito and son Jonathan de la Cruz, who is running for a first term.

In Dumaguete City, Mayor Agustin Perdices is running for reelection. Perdices served as mayor, for three successive terms from 1988 until 1998. He took a break for three years and was returned as mayor in 2001. His sister, Jovenia Perdices-Tompkin, is running for a seat in the city council.

Siquijor

In Siquijor, the Fua clan has been for nearly two decades the political power holders in the island province of 85,000 people (voting population: 52,000).

The political influence of the Fuas started 17 years ago when Orlando Fua Sr., a lawyer, was appointed OIC governor after the Edsa Revolution.

In 1988, Fua ran for governor and won. He was at the helm of the provincial capitol for three terms.

In the 1995 election, three Fuas successfully ran for office. Fua Sr., who was ineligible to run for governor, put up his son Orlando Jr. for the governorship and Orville, the youngest, for the vice governorship. Orville ran for mayor of Lazi town. They all won.

In the 1998 presidential election, the elder Fua ran for governor again and was able to reclaim his seat. Orlando Jr. became the congressman while Orville was elected mayor.

The elder Fua did not run in the 2001 election but Orlando Jr. ran for governor and Orville sought reelection. Both won.

In the May elections, Fua Jr. wants to reclaim his seat as governor to be vacated by his son Orlando Jr., who is running against Rep. Angelina Tan in the lone congressional. Orville is seeking another term as mayor of Lazi.

Other Fuas have also entered the political arena. Rhonda, the brother of Orlando Jr., is running as an independent candidate for vice mayor. Richard Fua Dungaran and Anthony Fua Ty are running for municipal council seats. Both are the nephews of Orlando Jr. *Inner R. Bolambao and Alec Paz, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Ultron
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BUSINESS

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Assistant Editor Connie S. Nemenzo

DELL
INTEGRATED COMPUTER SYSTEMS, INC.

T-bill yields drop on GMA's poll lead

By Michelle V. Ramos

THE APPETITE for short-term government securities got a big boost during yesterday's treasury bill auction from fresh news that President Macapagal-Arroyo had taken a bigger lead over campaign rival and political neophyte Fernando Poe Jr.

The yield for the government's 91-day treasury bill dropped to 4.867 percent, from 5.040 percent, a 17.3-basis-point expansion to 100 basis points is only 7.1% percent, while that for the 182-day debt paper decreased by 29.4 basis points to 5.267 percent.

For the 364-day bills, it was the first time in more than six months that the Bureau of Treasury accepted bids following a series of rejections due to abnormally high market offers. The rate for the one-year paper stood at 6.097 percent, or 32.3 basis points higher than the 5.384 percent recorded during the auction in February.

"The drop in interest rates was still due to the survey which said the fifth Macapagal is still leading the [presidential race," said Ireneo Miles Figueroa during a press briefing after the auction. Figueroa said the increased interest in government securities indicated that Ms. Macapagal was indeed the "market's candidate."

In the survey conducted by SWS Trends last week, Ms. Macapagal got 46.9 percent of votes of the 1,200 respondents compared with the 38.4 percent of Poe in recent surveys conducted by the Social Weather Stations and the Pulse Asia, Ms. Macapagal had at no taker he lead from Poe.

All treasury bill issues were oversubscribed during the auction. Tenders for the 91-day securities reached P7.71 billion compared with the government's offering of only P3.5 billion, while tenders for the 182-day bills reached P6.84 billion against the offering of only P3 billion. For the 364-day debt paper, tenders reached P5.36 billion compared with the P2.25 billion accepted by the government.

The government raised the ration P3.5 billion and P3 billion to programmed' volumes for three-month and six-month borrowings, choosing it only partially raised the scheduled one-year borrowing after it accepted only P2.25 billion against the programmed P2.5 billion.

Figueroa predicted that the market would show the same appetite as tomorrow's auction for the 5-year treasury bonds as political uncertainties have somewhat soured with Ms. Macapagal leading the survey.

"The market is very liquid right now, and banks are expected to put in their money in government securities, since it is their best option right now," Figueroa added.

RP economy remains 'weak spot' in Asia

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINE economy is likely to expand at a faster rate of 4.8 percent this year from 4.5 percent last year, but the country is still among the "weak spots" in Asia, according to Standard Chartered Bank.

The British bank's projected growth for the Philippines, published in an Asian quarterly digest April 6, was in second-to-the-lowest GDP [illegible] ahead of Indonesia's 4.4 percent.

The economic growth forecast given by the bank's for the Philippines was likewise a sad story of the government's official target of 4.9-5.4 percent.

On the other hand, Southeast Asian neighbors Thailand and Malaysia were expected by the bank to grow by a more robust 7 percent and 5.5 percent, respectively.

Other developing countries like Bangladesh, Pakistan and Pakistan were likewise seen to post higher growths of 5.5 percent, 6.6 percent and 5.6 percent, respectively.

"The Philippines stands out in the economy that has made relatively little progress in economic reform," said SCB's chief economist EC Tan-ek.

"Concerns mount over debt sustainability remained unaddressed and the presidential election

(Continued on Page B2)

Currencies

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

P 53.871 $1

As of 5 p.m., April 26, 2004

¥ 508.03 $1

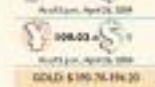
As of 5 p.m., April 26, 2004

GOLD $ 395.75-396.25

per ounce Hong Kong, April 26, 2004

Stock Market

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(Current market report on Page B2)

Stocks end lower

STOCKS closed lower yesterday, as losses in telecom issues PLDT and Globe Telecom, as investors took profit after Macapagal's 2.1-percent rise last week.

"The market has already discounted that President Macapagal-Arroyo may finish stronger in the election," said Jose Hilario Ambrosio of AP Capital Securities Inc.

The main stock index fell 7.1 percent, or 12.40 points, to 1,611.86 points.

On Friday, the index jumped to a three-year high, boosted by a voter poll showing Ms. Macapagal leaving about half three weeks before the May 10 presidential polls.

Polling firm Social Weather Stations said the President had a lead of more than four points over film star Fernando Poe Jr. at 39.3 percent to his 35.5 percent.

Another survey commissioned by the Makati Stamford showed Ms. Macapagal, an economist, as a strong bet by more than 3 [illegible] with 38.5 percent support against Poe's 29.4 percent.

The newspaper said it commissioned the poll covering 1,200 respondents nationwide between April 20 and April 22.

Reuters

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Lots to TEL about PLDT

MR. BEARBULL

Ruby Tuazon

I HEEED to have a lot of trouble with taxi drivers. I asked one to take me to Southwoods and he went to West Wack. Next day I was traveled to prominence BONGHOLI in Tagaytay, telling me P1, but I ended up in Glorietta. I should tell how anyone can confuse the two but I resolved to call the mall by its proper name, DOWER PLANT. Guess what, I called up in Barnett's Garden.

Have you heard about the 5 young bulls, discussing what they wanted to be when they grow up? The first wanted to go to Rome and become a papal bull. The second wanted to go to New York and become a bull on Wall Street. The third wanted to goto Hillsby City and become a Cheerio bull. The fourth decided to go to Beijing and become a bull in a China shop. The fifth said he would stay in the pasture for heifer and heifer.

* * *

THE POPE was finishing his sermon with the Latin phrase, 'Ite Romanos Obsessi by translated I. Hear this, a woman rights group approached him and complained that he did not include women. The Pope thought this to be unreasonable to send any, he concluded his sermon with 'Ite Romanos, ne Sat Romanos Obsessi (be translated and restranslated).

The following one is not couple who had just gotten married in Los Angeles said, "We have been accepted in most countries. Can you not films us also?" Being a kind-hearted Pope, he agreed, and next day concluded his sermon with 'Ite Romanos, Ite Romanos ex Tom Pussy.

* * *

PRES and foreign were talking one day about their forthcoming vacation. First rotated to Europe and said, "Three years ago, you told me to go to the Bahamas and Bliss got pregnant. Two years ago, I followed your advice and went to Hawaii but Bliss still got pregnant. Last year, you suggested Tahiti and done see if Bliss didn't get pregnant again."

"So what are you going to do this year?"

"Introducing Bliss to Steve."

* * *

THE MAJOR event of the week was undoubtedly the analyst briefing of SMAT on Thursday afternoon. It was originally scheduled at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel, but as guest soon the number of people attending that it had to be changed to Makati Shangri-La Hotel so I was unable to analyst. However, I spoke to several analysts and the forecast of P11.2 billion was well received. It was about P1 billion higher than most analysts were expecting but was in line with the P11 billion forecast by our research department.

For the year 2004, Mr. Bengzon has projected P10 billion but this seems conservative, given that the company wrote off P4.1 billion in respect of Master Cable and other investments. In addition, PLDT paid substantial severance compensation to the one-sixth of the workforce which was laid off as part of an efficiency drive. Last year, PLDT, lost another P1.9 billion, but this year should make a profit of P4bn million. I believe that profits will be closer to P20 billion unless there are any further write offs. Earnings per share are P15.75 so the P/E ratio is 17.5.

The company stated that SMART would not be going public in August as the SEC requested, but would wait until 2006 or possibly 2005. There is a conflict of interest between TEL and the SEC because the stock Exchange desperately needs large companies with good growth prospects plus liquidity to attract foreign investors. At present there are relatively few companies that meet these requirements and TEL, also quoted in New York, is by far the most heavily traded stock. Sometimes, it trades 3500 million and accounts for 40 percent of turnover.

If SMART were to list, there would be massive stockselling from TEL by SMART, since that is a share off the growth companies fund, but there would be an extraordinary attract desperately needed foreign funds. At present, TEL gets large dividends from SMART, 70 percent of its net profit, and for 2003, it received P16 billion. In 2004, 2005 and 2006, it expects even increasing dividends, which will help reduce its substantial debt, a big liability when the peso keeps hitting new lows.

So, TEL is in no hurry to part with 30 percent of SMART. This would be expected to bring in 30000 million (based on current profits), but if these are going to expand by another 3 years, as the company seems to think, then by delaying the IPO, the stake should produce a higher price. This, together with future dividends, would go a long way to wiping out TEL's debt (aforesaid and sizable). Be very interesting to see how profitable Smart's competitors are to enable them to comply.

An interesting question is when SMART should go public. If both TEL and GLOBE are another 3 years expansion before saturation occurs, then it would be better for SMART in future to ONO as 2006 figures would still have cut a flat line investors to subscribe to. It would therefore still be a growth stock and consumed a reasonable PE ratio. If it went until saturation happens, it would be valued as income stock with a lower P/E rating. Of course, the telecom companies may be able to push the saturation date back further.

One question, which was answered, was that PLDT is not to be used in the lockdown listing rules before SMART. last Tuesday, when the shares rose to P1.84. I wrote in my newsletter that the degree of risk had increased to 5 and that the situation looked dangerous, my most words. Within 2 days, the shares had fallen to P1.32.

Despite the fact that the directors have assured colloquially that PLDT will not be used for lockdown listings, I suspect the company may at the stock to reassess its salary again. A good trading stock, incidentally, there was virtually no foreign interest, just the local brokers trying to outrun each other. Obviously, it makes sense for SMART to use PLDT's huge tax losses so provided some arrangement can be worked out. Otherwise, it will take PLDT, a very long time to earn equity positive.

The other interesting week was SMPH. I don't have not about the worst performing blue chip over the past month, never participating in a market rallies. Admittedly, the property sector has been selling it and it fell back to P3.90 rapper level.

On Thursday morning, there were 9 million sellers at P3.90 and I have was a mere sale of 1.12 million shares by BDO. I estimated that was the end of the selling. I took the plunge on Friday morning, BDO cleared another 42 million shares. This seemed to clear the air and there was no sign of the remaining 7 million sellers at the previous close. Instead, there were 4 million buyers at P4 and only five sellers at P4.10. This is not a share one month so hopefully the shares will rise, but there is strong overhead resistance in P4.50's.

mr.bearbull@hotmail.com

SM property unit lists middle-income projects

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

RESIDENTIAL property developer SM Development Corp. has lined up property projects that are suitable for the middle-income market.

SMDC president Angelo Gibaoing said the company has also started selling its residential condominium project in Ayala, Paranaque, dubbed "Uptown Bloom." The eight-tower, 40-storey project will cater to the middle income market and may generate at least P200 million initially in sales for the company. SMDC is to claim Money By 6 submitted.

The cost of the first phase, consisting of 504 units, is estimated at P800-P250 million.

SMDC, through its 60.9-percent-owned subsidiary SM Synergy Properties Holdings Corp., launched Uptown Bloom last year.

Other projects lined up for 2004 include a residential condominium project and a mixed-use development project covering a 300-hectare property in Nuvali, Bringhi, in Mandaluyong City. SMDC has tied up with landowner Ayala-controlled Development Corp.

Last year, for Nuvali, SMDC's target between 100 and 200 square meters.

SMDC is also planning a mid-scale residential condominium called Mount Pandan on a 2,174-sqm. lot on Dao corner Bonifacio streets in Bonifacio Ave. The high-rise building will offer one- and two-bedroom units.

Revenues for the company grew 26.3 percent to P663.1 million last year due to a selling price, interest income and dividends. Net profit rose 36.8 percent to P86.13 million from P63.0 million last year.

Total consolidated assets rose by 7.1 percent to P9.26 billion while total debts stood at P306 million.

RP . . .

(continued from B1)

is May but introduced new intervention," Bond said.

He said now the bank projected that the Philippines' GDP growth would slow down to 4.5 percent.

SGB said the politically induced uncertainties would make defensive monetary tightening a genuine risk despite a benign inflation outlook.

It projected the country's inflation rate would average higher at 5 percent this year and further to 4.5 percent next year.

In the chapter on the Philippines, SGB regional economist Mike Morris warned that should the country's request and eventually get new fiscal measures disappointing. "The current cycle of worsening budget deficits, falling foreign exchange reserves and rising yields could be difficult to stabilize."

DISCLOSURES

BDO Unibank Inc. will hold its annual shareholders' meeting on May 28, 2 p.m. at Manila Elks Club, 7-9 Gamboa Place, Puerto de Roxas, Legaspi Vill., Makati City. Shareholders of record as of April 27 will be entitled to notice and vote at the meeting.

* * *

BHAAP Global Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on June 10, 4 p.m. at 8/F Salcedo Pavilion, Ayala Center, Makati City. Stockholders of record as of May 17 will be entitled to notice and vote at the meeting.

* * *

BOAR Terminals Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on April 29, 2 p.m. at the Diamond Hotel, Manila Diamond Hotel, Roxas Blvd., cor. Dr. J. Quintos St., Manila.

* * *

FCI Leasing & Finance, Inc. purchased 600,000 of its new shares at P1.32 per share on April 23 pursuant to its shares buy-back program.

* * *

FIL-ESTATE Holdings Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on May 28, 2 p.m. at the Makati Sunset Suite, Metro 18., Sakaida Vill., Makati City. Record date is May 7.

* * *

BANK of the Philippine Islands declared their its 20% stock dividend approved by BSP will be distributable on or before June 1.

* * *

SOUTH China Resources Inc. issued its annual stockholders' meeting to May 31 at Zurich.

* * *

WILLARD Corporation & Shelter Inc. disclosed the company's change of name to Allcity Transport System Corp., and the change of principal place of business to "Metropolitan Manila."

* * *

SEMIRORO Resources Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on May 20, 2:30 p.m. at Senate MB-006 PMO, Room 2, ROBI Plaza, Ayala Ave., Bel. 2, Pasay Avenues, Makati City. Stockholders of record as of May 7 will be entitled to notice and vote at the meeting. **Compiled by Erika Encinares. PID Research**

CURRENCIES

April 26, 2004 Country	Unit	Peso Equivalent	Sunday Equivalent	Friday Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.0000000	1.00000	56.1970
Japan	Yen	0.00731	0.00731	0.5116
United Kingdom	Pound	1.01777	1.01777	98.4565
Hongkong	Dollar	0.12888	0.12870	7.2351
Switzerland	Franc	0.45259	0.45259	25.4396
Canada	Dollar	0.72472	0.72472	40.7328
Singapore	Dollar	0.32817	0.32849	18.4541
Australia	Dollar	0.41670	0.41670	23.4191
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.2648	0.26507	14.8976
Saudi Arabia	Riyal	0.26510	0.26510	14.8955
Brunei	Dollar	0.49768	0.49770	27.9571
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.00500	0.00510	0.2813
Thailand	Baht	0.01346	0.01354	0.7606
UAE	Dirham	0.27203	0.27203	15.2873
Euro	Euro	1.23863	1.23863	69.6000
Kuwait	Dinar	3.42	3.42	192.2
Bahrain	Dinar	2.65957	2.65957	149.4681
Qatar	Riyal	0.27473	0.27473	15.4400
Oman	Rial	2.59740	2.59740	145.9740
Taiwan	New Dollar	0.01744	0.01744	0.9802
New Zealand	Dollar	0.57944	0.57944	32.5600
Bahrain	Dinar	0.27175	0.27175	15.2717
Norway	Krone	0.14286	0.14286	8.0286
Sweden	Krona	0.13333	0.13333	7.4933
Czechoslovakia	Koruna	0.03629	0.03629	2.0394
Hungary	Forint	0.00519	0.00519	0.2917
Poland	Zloty	0.28571	0.28571	16.0571
Russia	Ruble	0.03333	0.03333	1.8733
Taiwan	10 Dollar	0.02427	0.02427	1.3639
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.00000	0.00000	0.0000

Developing countries urge to be heard in WB, IMF

By Michelle V. Rivera

FINANCE and monetary officials of developing countries, including the Philippines, again are pressing for better representation in the decision-making of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

They said the meager participation of developing countries in the crafting of IMF and World Bank policies is a serious concern that subverts the legitimacy of the world's two biggest lenders.

The call was made during the 71st Meeting of the Ministers by the G-24 held last week in Washington D.C. The G-24 is a group composed of finance and central bank officials from 24 developing countries. The group's common aim is to reduce poverty.

The officials and from the member states of some developing countries are dissatisfied that they cannot be match their level of vulnerability to the economic impact of decisions made by the IMF and the World Bank.

The G-24 said the issue of underrepresentation should be immediately addressed in agreed during the previous Monterrey Consensus.

"Ministers call for the completion of work on these issues by 2006," according to a communique the officials released yesterday.

The country raised its finance and economy officials came after critics slammed the IMF and the World Bank. The two institutions are set to mark their 60th anniversary this year.

According to critics, the IMF and the World Bank have not fulfilled its mandate of alleviating misery poverty 60 years after they were established. They claimed several countries were made even poorer after the two institutions imposed tough lending rules.

But the IMF and the World Bank said they were cautiously optimistic in bringing about significant improvements in various aspects of the world economy—such as trade liberalization, education, standard of living.

Also, members of the G-24 want the IMF to encourage industrialized countries to open their markets to developing countries' products.

They agreed that improvements in infrastructure are vital to the growth and competitiveness of developing countries.

The officials, including Philippines Finance Secretary Jesus Arteta, also called on the IMF and the World Bank to grant developing countries more access to lending facilities, and to resume stalled talks in the World Trade Organization.

Attorney Arteta represented the Philippines during the meeting. Arteta elected second vice chair of the G-24.

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3 Months	3.000%	3.250%	3.500%
6 Months	3.250%	3.250%	3.500%
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250,000 - 500,000	5.50	5.75	5.75	6.00	7.00
500,000 - 900,000	6.00	6.25	6.50	6.50	8.00
1,000,000 - 4,999,999	7.75	7.75	7.75	7.75	8.00
5 million and up	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00

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RP mangoes off to US after delay in shipment

By Christine A. Gaylican

FRESH Philippine mangoes are now off to the United States after Department of Agriculture officials have issued out the "kinks" causing the delay in shipment, according to Agriculture Secretary Luis P. Lorenzo.

The Philippine Mango Exporters Federation Inc. led by the Ilom Mangoes Orindale, earlier expressed reluctance to ship their products to the US because the DA allegedly had not given its share in the payment of inspection fees which the US Department of Agriculture (US-Dac) required.

The USDA requires $11,175 as inspection fee to carry out quarantine procedures.

Lorenzo said the government was able to raise the money to help in the USDA inspection.

"It is now all systems go," he the export of fresh mangoes to the US, Lorenzo said. Despite an initial setback, we are confident we can catch up with demand and, hopefully, be able to exceed our past export volumes."

The Philippines may only export fresh mangoes to the United States between the months of April and June because of strict quarantine procedures. The Americans only allowed the shipment of mangoes from Zamboanga Islands in the Visayas.

The DA chief said the Philippines hopes to exceed the export volume of 217,720 kilograms set last year, citing growth in demand from the Filipino community in the United States.

Aside from the US, the Philippines has been exporting fresh mangoes to Japan, South Korea, Belgium and parts of Southeast Asia and the Middle East.

Major exporters are Ilom Philippine Produce Co., Diamond Fruit of Davao, Hermano Bryan Zeta, and Hi-Jo Marketing.

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BUSINESS

DOTC scores BCDA for Northrail stance

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE TRANSPORTATION department has criticized the Subic Conversion Development Authority for announcing plans to abandon the $503-million Manila-Clark Northrail train project.

A transport official said the **statements made** by BCDA president Rufo Colayco could alarm the project lender, the Export Import Bank of China, which had just approved a $400-million loan for the Northrail project.

Transportation Undersecretary Jose Cielito Jr. also frowned on Colayco's statement saying that the move to pull out of the project was an option to resist granting subsidies in the future.

"There's no basis for BCDA to say that it cannot grant subsidies in the long-term. We signed a foreign currency to come in over a new railway authority is explain," Cielito said.

Cielito said there would be no need for BCDA to provide subsidies once Congress approved a bill that would create a new railway authority to replace the ailing Philippine National Railways.

Cielito added: PNR could no longer source fund managers to bankroll any project but the government is confident that a new entity would be able to raise the funds needed to operate and maintain the Northrail system.

The new railway agency will start with a clean slate similar to how the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas started anew after the government liquidated the old central bank.

The transport official pointed out that the DOTC was already working on securing more loans for the 32.4-kilometer Northrail project, which is expected to start **commercial operations in 2007.**

The new authority will effectively absorb PNR's railway operations and maintenance functions, he added.

Cielito said it was too up in the BCDA to decide on the fate of the Northrail project.

The construction of the Manila-Clark railway project will mark once the government's equity of $22 million is released by the budget department, he said.

Northrail is being funded by a loan secured by the Philippine government from China Eximbank. The loan carries a 3 percent annual **interest payable in 20 years.**

Under the original terms of the loan, the interest was set at 3 percent and the loan was payable in 30 years.

Of the total project cost of $503 million, $395.22 million will come in the form of suppliers' credit from China while $107.82 million will come from the Philippine government through the BCDA.

The project seeks to provide efficient transport services between Metro Manila and Central Luzon through the reconstruction and conversion of the existing tracks of the PNR.

It also involves land acquisition in areas where PNR tracks are too narrow, utilities clearance, procurement of 20 four-car train sets, and provision of train control and signaling systems.

Northrail will have six stations: Caloocan, Valenzuela, Marilao, Bocaue, Guiguinto and Malolos in Bulacan.

Trains donated by China have already arrived but problems on relocating informal settlers hampered the full implementation of the project.

To address this, China has agreed to allocate $25 million for **the relocation of informal settlers** who will be affected by the project.

FIRST TIME IN 7 YEARS

Victorias posted profit in '03

VICTORIAS Milling Co. Inc. has, for the first time in seven years under a Securities and Exchange Commission-sanctioned rehabilitation program, posted a net income of P91.5 million for crop year ending Aug. 31, 2003.

Its financial statements, audited by Joaquin Cunanan/P&A Price Waterhouse, will be presented to its stockholders for approval during a meeting on April 30.

Although gross sales were only 1 percent **higher than the previous crop year's level,** the company's earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization rose by 97 percent to P7.63 million from P410 million in the previous year.

The improvement was attributed to a 14-percent reduction in the cost of sales, which was achieved despite an increase in production level.

Victorias milled 3.6 million gross tons of cane and produced 3.4 million bags of raw sugar, both similar records, posted in the previous crop year. Molasses production reached 143,746 metric tons, 28 percent higher than the previous crop year's level.

Refined sugar production dropped from 6.4 million bags to 6.1 million bags due to the company's efforts to optimize its production level relative to its bagasse fuel supply.

As of February of the current crop year, sugar and molasses prices have dropped by an average of 12 percent, resulting in a P116 million decline in gross revenue, its impact on the overall financial performance during the period was cushioned off by better refinery revenue which increased by P62 million and a **net reduction of P30 million in overall expenses.** Earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization during the period reached P410 million, which was lower than P425 million in the same period last crop year.

Victorias has so far paid creditors P304 million in interest charges during the current crop year. These charges, coupled with higher oil-season repairs and a drop in raw sugar prices, resulted in a net loss of P33.3 million for the first six months of the current crop year.

In accordance with its rehabilitation plan, Victorias will also pay trade suppliers 20 percent of their expenses amounting to P98 million before August this year.

TUESDAY, APRIL 27, 2004 PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

LIFESTYLE

15 questions on weighty matters /C4

MONDAY ARTS • TUESDAY FITNESS • WEDNESDAY 20U • THURSDAY FOOD • FRIDAY HOME & FASHION • SUNDAY SURPRISES

The corporate athlete

Psychologist Jim Loehr says the key to high performance in work is to manage your energy, not your time

ATHLETE is not a term normally used to describe a desk-bound business executive or office worker. But performance psychologist Jim Loehr says the performance demands most people face in their work environments "dwarf those of any professional athlete."

In his book, "The Power of Full Engagement," Loehr writes: "In a profession, the corporate athlete is the ultimate athlete."

He makes the observation after working with athletes and business people for 20 years. His Florida-based company, LGE Performance Training Systems, has taught sports personalities, businessmen and law enforcers the secrets to sustaining high performance—managing energy levels effectively.

Loehr explains that professional athletes typically spend 98 percent of their time training to produce 30 percent of the value. They follow precise daily routines, get the right kind and amount of food, sleep, rest and recovery so they can compete at their peak.

"They are on 'vacation' for about six days a month, after spending five to seven years in their careers, they don't retire early, if they have significant financial well.

In contrast, the corporate athlete (every one who works for a living) has no problem in his/her last 8-10 hours a day, usually put in

WELL AND GOOD

Rina Jimenez-David

FASHIONABLE Manila socialite Claudia Mendiola Tuason

TITO Tuchengco

MARIT Tuchengco

SINGAPORE hoteliers Vivian and Michelle Sycip Gonzalez with Gerald Kong at the Kadeka

THE PHILIPPINE pack at Villa Indio (first row) Maripi Muscat, Vicky Zubiri, Karen Santos, Lindsay Bonds, our queen for four days, celebutante Kesha de Guzman and daughter Amanda; and Carla Tengco. (second row) Raul Manzano, mez. Al Tengco, Johnny Velasquez, Franco de Guzman and his father, our host Bing de Guzman; (third row) George and Teresa Godoy

Fab days and nights on the island of the gods

KORNAR Nicky, who owns Mojon Gallery in Ubud, visits his wife Bo

If you think Cosmo Manille is the hub of the mad partying scene, think again Indonesia. Our friendly neighbor, Singapore, is running neck-and-neck with us as demonstrated during the fabulous birthday bash of our town's love and the Lion City's gain, tall, stylish woman of substance, Kathy de Guzman.

Her pals from Singapore and Manila flew to exotic Bali, Indonesia, where the bold count for three-an-night days, parties and more. Join the Singapore's and Manille's high-powered society figures, mega tycoons, business magnates and bankers.

The grand organizer (see Kathy is, it was nonstop elegant dinners, cool poolside lazy champagne brunches, cocktails in the best clubs and bars, and nightclub hopping that had the chi-chi park running from one end of Bali to the other.

The fab pre-birthday bash was hosted by Singapore's regal duchess Dupe for intimate friend socialite Cristina Ong's Club 23 and dynamic mom, the ever chic Imee Bautista Tee, at his sprawling summer home. Guests came in cool, cool white outfits.

Hot-shot **princess** from Singapore-based Stephen Stronfield, former dude for then-Pacific of Cecile Trainer Elen Bianco, settled with Elizabeth; absolutely adorable, vivacious Rita de Bona, an Indonesian born-to-living in Singapore who's building her dream villa at Jimbaran Bay designed by top Balinese architect Popo Danes, our very own internationally renowned painter Pacita Abad, with her good-looking hubby Jack Kinsella.

The yummy-yummy Balinese buffet had the power people going back for seconds. Brilliant, well-respected banker Bing de Guzman, ING's private banking chief executive officer Sit Aida Pandji, entertained fellow mega bankers and businessmen all night long.

There were Tito Tuchengco and his wife, utmost-in-time Marit V., utility entrepreneur and entrepreneur Al Tengco; Mandaluyong Gawisa, George Silhouette, the hot-shot gentleman from Ayannosa Dawn Passeero, with his wife Mary; oil trader Steve Williams, with his wife Tanda who just furnished their Bali home designed by top Malaysian architect Ben Kwan, the hot, hot architect of Bali's cop owner, the mind-boggling Bagawan Sri.

Dazzling stars of the affair were Manille's glamour girls Vicky Zubiri, Carla Tengco, Maripi Muscat, who received endless compliments on their looks and style...undergun.

Our gorgeous home for four days was the beautifully lush private Villa Indio where Kathy and Bing had some of us in the Philippine pack as guests. The day after the dinner we had elaborate champagne brunch at the huge pool by the cool poolside. Banker-entrepreneur Raul Manzano, Kathleen's fashionable Raven Bautista and sister Serene and Jacqui flew over to early talking in the Balinese sun before the beautiful hostess arrived at 11 a.m.

Brilliant architect Ed and Susie Calma stayed under the shade of a huge five tree chatting with Kathy's brother and sister-in-law George and Teresa Godoy. Popular couple, businessman Godoy and dazzling fashion plate Deedee Tantoco, couldn't stop admiring the layout around the pool. You must have your fill of shrimp and lots of soup and sate gorong, among others. Champagne flowed endlessly, usually for ice-cream cones was the most popular spot.

For those toasted some of Bali's gorgeous tourist restaurants. The fantastic four Sequoia in Jimbaran, with sunset-watching from Bali Hilton to a bungalow, was something out of paradise, sprinkled along a hillside with a view of the ocean hundreds of feet below and lush mountains. No wonder that is where international visitors like Sting, Barbara Streisand, Madonna, European royalties, Ou Zobelo and Bessie Kenyan stay.

After three days of lunches and dinners in the best places in Bali, the celebrator's big night took place at the chi-chi Balidra (but listed the ocean).

Kathy looked delicious in a slinky Gucci outfit, as she De Guzmans entertained the 800 best boys from Singapore, Perth, Manille, Hong Kong and Bali. The dinner menu was to die for, personally chosen by our hostess and her husband.

Three children, smart Frances and brilliant recent beauty Amanda, had their group like eye-catching Geodesy Brock and young handsome hunk Ivan Mansfield, who admitted he preferred more mature, wealthy women.

A surprise show, prepared by Kathy's hubby, featured Balinese dancing girls, drums and more

SUPER PALS Serene Po, Kathy and Cynthia Hoefer at the poolside brunch party

MARKET Rosemont

COMCAST Tuason

HURDI Bahdi

OUT in the sun: Charlie Bloom at Villa Indio

PCCP special events committee: (seated) member Olga Martin, director Chit Soho, president Mollie Abbas and chair Fortune Ledesma; (standing) members Pilo Aquino, Linda Villadolgado, Celine Bautista, Lucille Villanueva and Nini Lopez

THE MANILLE PACK. Architect Ed Calma, magazine newsman Ben Santos, hostess Kathy, her brother George Godoy with Teresa, Toni Santos, and Susie Calma at Villa Indio

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

MAURICE ARCAMBAU

Photos by Alex Van Hagen and Jocelyn Bliss

MONCHOY Garcia

Quench Abdulla, who divides his time between Bali, LA and San Francisco and just finished his huge house in Bali designed by Kerry Hill (designer of Amanusa, Amandari, Sarai), with Carl Elias.

MARIPI Muscat and son posing for posterity

JUDITH Chung and Sam Rosenfeld

PETER and Aileen Tan, Bing de Guzman and Jos Kunneman

of flowers that thrilled everyone.

The party lasted till 4:30 a.m., guests going back to the bar for more fun.

Kathy, the woman of substance, style and class, insisted Bank her husband Bing enough for the fab four days, not to mention the "Wow!" birthday gift she received. Sublimo.

CCP's friends

The ropes dedicated ladies of the Friends for Cultural Concerns of the Philippines (FCCP) will host a shindig cocktail, "Shinsole, Asian and Friends," 6-8 p.m., April 28, at the residence of the Belgian ambassador, Christiaan Vaughn and his wife Mme. Gail Vaughn, pairing pm.

Marking its 25th anniversary the FCCP is rallying promising young artists exposure, particularly to a select group of wealthy music patrons. The event is organized by the special events committee headed by its director, socialite Chit Soho, and chair, fashionable Fortune Ledesma, with the FCCP president, ultra glamorous Mollie Abbas.

Featured are dancers of Ballet Manila, headed by prima ballerina Lisa Macuja Elizalde, in original ballet, "Sarsa," will have nine male dancers, including two FCCP scholars. It focuses on a musical mix technique practiced in the Philippines even before the arrival of the Spaniards. The ballet will be premiered at the Aberdeen International Youth Festival.

Showcasing the Japanese technique is the ballroom scene from "Romeo and Juliet," choreographed by People's Artist of Russia Sergei Vikulov to the music of Sergei Prokofiev.

During the event, patronage of FCCP committee-huppable members will be displayed at the residence of Ambassador Vaughn.

It should be a cultural night to experience palangan.

PACITA Abad, George Filmore Ho, Rita de Bona, John Lee, May Filmore Ho, Inez Bernard Tee, Vicky Zubiri and birthday girl Kathy de Guzman at the all-white party

EXERCISE OF THE WEEK

Standing double leg hamstring stretch

THIS exercise stretches hamstrings or muscles at the back of the legs in a weighted position.

Equipment:
None

Exercise technique:

1. Stand with feet slightly apart. Place your hands on your thighs, bend your knees and come down into a squat position with your chest lifted and head looking behind you.

2. Keep your upper body steady as you straighten your legs.

Performance tips:

1. Keep your chest lifted and buttocks arching back behind you when you straighten your legs. You are hinged forward at your hips.

2. You should feel mild tension in your hamstrings but you should not feel pain. If it feels quite uncomfortable for your lower back or hamstrings, slide your hands higher along your thighs and lift your upper body slightly.

Repetitions:

Do five to six dynamic repetitions of bending and straightening, then hold the stretch for 15-20 seconds.

Opportunity knocks but once.
JOB Market

The corporate athlete

From page C3

is a two-week break, and works for 40-50 years.

Loehr asks, "What makes it possible to keep performing at your best without sacrificing your health, your happiness and your passion for life?"

The answer, he says, is managing your energy the way a sports athlete does. He believes the key to high performance in work is to manage your energy, not your time.

Loehr has developed "The Complete Corporate Athlete Training Program." It teaches how to train like a professional athlete so you can be "fully engaged" or fully energized as you compete in the "ten race" called work.

In addition, full engagement means an athlete who is totally committed to winning and focused during training and during a game. In business, full engagement is being passionate about your work, viewing problems or challenges instead of threats, and having enough energy for work and personal life.

Loehr cites 2001 data from the Gallup Organization showing that 19 percent of Americans are fully engaged at work (they love their jobs and are highly productive), 55 percent are "not engaged" (they produce mediocre work) and 26 percent are "actively disengaged" (they are unhappy and "poison" the minds of coworkers about the company).

Gallup found similar, if not worse, statistics in European and Asian countries.

This week, let's take a quick look at the main principles to becoming a fully engaged corporate athlete. Next week, we'll discuss practical ways to increase your physical energy at work.

Four sources of energy

Loehr defines energy as simply the capacity to do any kind of work. He says it is the most pervasive resource on individual and an organization have because it "is the fuel that ignites talent and skill."

Energy, he says, has four separate but related dimensions: physical, emotional, mental and spiritual. Commitment to one's deepest values, regardless of circumstances.

Full engagement occurs when a person is "physically energized, cognitively connected, emotionally focused and spiritually aligned." Loehr says the most fundamental source of energy is physical, but the most significant is spiritual.

You lose energy from overuse and underuse.

When you do too much (demand exceeds capacity), you become battled out and overstressed. If you don't do enough (not enough challenge), you become bored and disillusion.

You need stress to grow. Loehr says stress is not the enemy but the key to growth. Any form of stress that takes you out of your comfort zone can make you grow as a person and will be beneficial when followed by an adequate recovery period. He adds we should think of life as a series of sprints (bursts of speed) followed by a rest period (rather than a marathon (continuous stress).

Companies that take pride in a culture of continuous work (all day meetings, long days, working weekend) are compromising the performance of their people and, in the end, their own bottom line.

The energy rhythm

Everything in nature is rhythmic and occurs in intervals—day and night, tidal ebbs and flows, inhaling and exhaling, contraction and relaxation of the heart, etc.

Americans have found that not only do we sleep in cycles of 90-120 minutes but we also experience the same thing during the day. This is called the "ultradian rhythms."

Loehr writes: "The ultradian rhythms help to account for the ebb and flow of our energy throughout the day. Somewhere between 90 and 120 minutes, the body begins to crave a period of rest and recovery. Signals include a desire to yawn and stretch, hunger pangs, increased tension, difficulty concentrating, an inattention to preoccupation or hunger, and a higher incidence of mistakes."

By intermittently renewing your energy through five to 10 minutes of total disengagement from whatever you are doing, by eating well and moderately, taking a stretch break and going for a walk are ways to purposefully disengage and recover your energy so you can return to your work refreshed and fully engaged.

More corporate athlete training techniques next week

For more information on "The Complete Corporate Athlete Training Program," go to www.corporateathlete.com or www.Powerful Full Engagement.com

As metabolism slows down with age, you should exercise more to minimize weight gain

15 weighty questions

INSIDE OUT
Gary Quirino

WHO does overweight mean?

Boomers go by established Body Mass Index standards in determining overweight. Today, strictly speaking, if you are 20 pounds heavier than what is supposed to be your ideal weight you are considered obese. The waist circumference test sets the others acceptable for men—less than 37% inches. For women—less than 32 inches. Beyond this, you are overweight.

Why am I overweight when I hardly eat?

It is believed that the less active seniors, the less food you need. Overweight people who live sedentary lives should eat less.

What about heredity? Can I blame my weight problems on my genes?

There are indications that weight problems can be hereditary. However, it doesn't mean because of family history you are doomed to stay overweight. However, on a less-extreme diet and effective exercise program, lose weight.

How does slow metabolism cause weight gain?

Research has proved that a low metabolism doesn't really make you fat—eating more than a diet person is the problem.

Isn't it normal to put on weight as one ages?

No. Once metabolic rate slows down with age and inactivity sets in slowly but. You can as an older adult by exercising more.

Should I change? I am happy being fat...

Overweight people often suffer from various health problems and risk early death. Your happiness could be short-lived.

What is the best weight loss diet?

You can relieve stick to three big meals or five small meals a day. Easy calorie intake low: men: 1,500-1,750 calories; women: 1,200-1,500 calories; however exercise and eaten its levels.

Is there a fast way to lose weight?

There is no fast-working weight loss. Gradual is best. Starvation diets don't work because they lower you hunger. Research shows that those who lose weight fast tend to gain it back again. You could try eating less on your carbohydrate intake, say from one cup to half a cup, as mid-terms.

Do I remove the fat or the calories?

They must be cut down simultaneously. Go easy on starches like bread, potatoes, pasta, rice and fat like meats, cakes, pastries, etc.

Can one control hunger pangs?

Habit can be stimulated to hunger so we eat only when you are hungry, not when the clock says so. Have a diet high in fiber. Menstruating women eat more during their cycle. This is okay.

Can I control my food cravings?

One is allowed dessert after a low fat meal. Nothing wrong with chocolate. Stopping on eating foods you like is good. Eating regular meals will normalize cravings unless you lack a nutrient like potassium, which could lead to organ (skeletal) cravings, as you are depressed and need sweeter foods.

Can I eat out and feel safe about my meal?

Yes, if you start off with cooked, and order fish or lean meat with a moderate amount of carbohydrates (small or cooked instead of two potatoes).

Should I weigh myself daily?

It's not necessary. A weekly weigh-in is good enough.

Is it true that maintaining a new style body is difficult?

Yes. Keeping excess weight off permanently is pretty difficult than losing it. Most successful dieters also easily gain weight. This has to do with your lifestyle choices. But healthy 3-lbs people cannot eat as much as before did when they were fat.

Can I diet by eating another person's food?

Nothing wrong with eating processed food unless it is laced with preservatives, coloring and seasoning. Well, fresh produce is best.

Healthy Heart Salad

1 apple
1 mango
¼ onion (peeled and chopped)
2 limes
Add 2 c low fat yoghurt. Chill and serve.

Exfoliant rub

Crush half an apple, wrap it in a hanky and rub on a clean face. Feel the juices cleanse and exfoliate your skin. Rinse with cool water.

Love and light!

Reference: 'The Good Table' by Jo and Wife

The powerful Utol Jess

Part 3

INNER AWAKENING
Jaime T. Licauco

MEMBERS of Hating Bakal in Lipa, Batangas hold Jess Versales in high esteem. I learned that among notable achievements, there is a hierarchy of the powerful people-pasaway, and Jess' exemplary one of the highest ranks.

Before the blessing, we listened to members' stories about the powers of their amulets. Jess related how, on one occasion, he was threatened by a group of armed men. Alone and armed only with a knife, he said he stayed as still as a statue, and the men suddenly scampered away. Another member, a Pat Pudoy (truthful like powder. When told about it, the answer said, "Maybe it's your teeth that got broken."

Jess handed the broken amulet to him and the man frowned, "Oh, it's a fake!" He pointed Jess to his friend and ordered for the amulets saved to bend the metal.

Temple of God

Jess said he used no sorcery or power word. "My amulet is to use very person, because my body is the temple of God," he explained.

Jess' confidence was tested in unexpected circumstances. He was seated when he noticed his sister who drowned while swimming in a lake. She drowned at 7 a.m. and the lifeless body was recovered at 11 a.m. Jess summoned the girl's spirit to return to her body and she revived. Until now, the girl is still alive. This story has been told and retold in the village and beyond.

Another incredible story was told to us by a member of his village group. "One day," he said, "a people healer [faked while the subject was going down of sleep mood leading to the house of Jess Versales. Jess was drinking tuyong-pulot in the store hill. The healer kept shouting, 'I have no business to leave my father.' Before the subject could finish the healer's song, as the story goes, it snapped and remained motionless until Jess could return to the side to revive it to life. The group then continued to go down hill and vanished.

My person," Chief Jess said, "is to you on the right path till who will help them. I am not more than one of them to be taken advantage of or be in danger."

Jess' sons has followers throughout Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao.

History of Hating Bakal

"Mr. Bibit is known about the history and background of Hating Bakal. According to Jess Versales, it began in Mindanao in the late 1800s. It was founded by Datung Aguilino Lapot Galang.

"The superstitious aims to protect the weak and chase others from any threatened by dangerous elements, to fight evil and help the government. To be protected, one has to take the oath of blood. A member has to be blessed. The blessing includes being hacked with a sword on one's body or a sword several times in different parts of the body.

"The number of times one gets hacked determines his ranking or status in the brotherhood. Initially he gets six strikes, nine 21, three 36 and finally, 57. For a total of 120. The 36 strikes include the nape and the 57 strikes include the two sides of the neck as well as the head.

Once a person has been properly blessed by an authorized "Datuan," he becomes a member of Hating Bakal. He will then receive a prayer to be said every day and has to wear a special red T-shirt or t-shirt, or cotton sacred watch or symbol of protection. This becomes the member's only outing attire or uniform. Members of Hating Bakal, unlike other secret believers, do not carry medallions or other metallic or wooden amulets in their body. They believe the various, which are not necessary, are given by the spirits of their dead, protect them from harms and bullets, and even sorcery and accidents.

Every new member recites the Oath of Allegiance that says, among other things, he will "love God and obey His commandments, instill the spirit of Christianism and to serve and defend my country without any material reward."

When founder Datung Lapot died, no one was appointed to replace him as overall head. It remains vacant and members still consider him the head of the organization. The others are called chapter heads or presidents but a local "Mayor" is higher than equivalent.

Clearances

Before one is initiated into the organization, he must submit documents from the police, National Bureau of Investigation and barangay. He should also have no drug dependent.

Members of Hating Bakal attribute ability to control all bodies and have reached to a significant increase in membership. Especially eager to join are military and police personnel whose lives are always in danger. Today, estimates of Hating Bakal membership throughout the Philippines range from 300,000 to one million.

Members usually adhere to a code of ethics requiring they never cheat, rape or harm people. Violators are expelled. Some of those expelled later formed their own organizations and adopted some of the rituals and practices of Hating Bakal. Thus, it is not easy to determine overall membership.

Lessons in my dAM! talk program every Sunday, 7-8:30 p.m.

Take Charge Doc!

Dr. Ricky S. Montoya

Take Charge Doc! kicks off its 4th year with a totally different concept. From the previous format of being a question and answer guide for members about MEDICard and its services, to an almanac of knowledge in healthcare.

The New Take Charge Doc! now features questions and answers about general health issues and illnesses answered through the assistance and expertise of MEDICard's network of accredited specialists. And in a common thrust with the campaigns of the government, your weekly healthcare guide parallels its features on the Calendar of Health Events of the Department of Health, featuring for the month of April a campaign to support various health programs to reduce childhood illnesses.

What is active and passive vaccination? For the summer months, what vaccinations would you recommend for my toddler?

Active vaccination, a vaccine is substance which contains the offending organism but has either been chemically killed or genetically weakened so that they do not produce disease) is introduced to the body either by injection or oral means. In this way, the immune system is activated and therefore generates its own response hence, protecting the body against disease. Examples of these are the Hepatitis B vaccine and Oral Polio Vaccine.

On the other hand, passive immunization does not involve the person's own immune system. Rather, antibodies produced by someone else are injected to the person because his own immune system cannot react promptly to stop a rapidly spreading disease. These agents are fast, however their effect is short-lived unlike that of the active vaccination. Examples of these passive agents are the Hepatitis B and Hepatitis A immunoglobulins.

This summer, I would recommend that your toddlers receive vaccinations for measles, chicken pox and the vaccines in addition to the usual basic immunizations.

This week's feature question was answered by **Dr. Rosamunde S. Gonzales**, a MEDICard provider since 1991. She is the mother of TV personalities Kristine and Katrina Gonzales, more popularly known as the "da Bloom" twins. She began her career in Medicine after graduating from the University of Santo Tomas in 1986 and chose to specialize in Pediatrics, finishing her residency at Cardinal Santos Medical Center in 1989. Dr. Gonzales is very fond of children. In fact, she says that this is probably the reason why she chose to become a Pediatrician. You can be your children's consultation needs at MEDICard's Head Office clinic in Makati, 6/F Sagittarius Bldg., H.V. dela Costa St. every Mon and Tues from 1 to 3 PM; Wed and Fri from 10 to 12 noon and on Sat from 7:30 to 1:30 PM. You can also bring your children for consultations at MEDICard Festival Supermall Clinic every Tues from 4 to 8 PM and on Sun from 9 to 12 noon.

BE HEARD AND BE READ. Write to DR. RICKY S. MONTOYA (c/o TAKE CHARGE DOC!) or e-mail him at inquiry@medicardphils.com for inquiries on health matters.

MEDICard is the first HMO in the Philippines and the whole Asia Pacific Region to be ISO CERTIFIED